



SIR GEORGE YOUNG: dropped four years ago, now joining the whips office



TIMOTHY EGGAR: to replace Angela Rumbold as schools minister



DAVID MELLOR: arts minister, chief beneficiary of the reshuffle

International battle likely on power sale

By RICHARD FORD AND DEREK HARRIS

THE ownership of Britain's electricity generating industry may be the subject of an international battle after John Wakeham's announcement yesterday that he was prepared to negotiate a private sale of PowerGen, the smaller of the two non-nuclear generating companies.

The Hanson industrial conglomerate had expressed an interest in buying PowerGen, and the energy secretary told the Commons he would also consider any serious offer for National Power, the bigger company.

If Hanson makes an offer, Mr Wakeham intends to invite other companies to bid for PowerGen. That might

arouse the interest not only of such British firms as GEC and Trafalgar House, but also West German companies with extensive energy interests.

The suggestion that PowerGen might be sold to the highest bidder rather than offered to small shareholders as with previous privatisations has arisen because of fears that there might not be sufficient interest among investors to achieve the flotation of the two power companies at a full price.

The sale of PowerGen could raise more than £1 billion and yesterday Mr Wakeham said that the costs involved were likely to be "substantially lower" than those for a flotation. A tender sale might raise more money since the buyer may pay a premium for gaining 100 per cent control.

Mr Wakeham, who said discussions would continue with Hanson in parallel with preparations for the flotation of the two companies next February, promised that if Hanson made a binding offer, he would invite other companies to tender.

The government would attach conditions to any sale rather than by holding a "golden share". Those would include a restriction on a purchaser's ability to dispose of all or a substantial part of the business. A private bidder would have to give a commitment on environmental work and ensure that taxpayers shared in profits from any later property disposals. However, Mr Wakeham did not rule out foreign ownership.

Lord Hanson's group could be only one of several companies that might join the race to own a third of Britain's power generation capacity. Lord Weinstock's General Electric Company (GEC) is one, and a spokesman said: "We are watching developments." GEC recently injected its power generation equipment interests into GEC-Alstom, an evenly-split joint venture with France's CGE. That might make it less likely

that GEC would run into monopoly problems if it made a bid for PowerGen.

City analysts were also sizing up the possibility of Trafalgar House becoming interested. Its subsidiary John Brown is a key manufacturer of power generation equipment and Trafalgar has other energy interests.

West Germany's Veba, which produces about a seventh of West Germany's electricity, is a keen watcher of energy developments in Britain. RWE is another big West German utility with extensive electricity generation capability.

Electricity generation is a public sector activity in France but there are large utilities in both Belgium and Spain. With the single European market near, approaches from countries within the EC would presumably be acceptable. There seems less certainty that any from North America would be as welcome, although interest from there might be more likely to be to take a share in a consortium approach.

GE Capital, part of General Electric, and AGAs are two big transatlantic players.

Lord Marshall, former chairman of the Central Electricity Generation Board, said that a private sale had been regarded by his board as "an option of last resort".

Electricity debt, page 23



Lord Hanson: "serious interest in making offer"

Annual drought alarms go off

By MICHAEL HORSNELL

THE annual Great British Drought arrived yesterday after 15 consecutive days without rain in most sun-baked areas of the country. But alarmist cries of a water shortage were repudiated by the Water Services Association, which said all but the eastern side is better off than last year due to heavy winter rain.

About four million people are enduring 11 localised hosepipe bans in the South-east and Yorkshire, and tourists are placing uncomfortable demands on the South-west. However, Christopher Patten, the environment secretary who has overall responsibility for water, has been told no further restrictions are necessary.

A spokesman for the environment department, said: "If people abide by hosepipe bans and any other restrictions there is no problem. It's not a crisis. We haven't had a single application for a standpipe."

The department has issued 25 drought orders under the Water Act giving water companies the power to ban commercial car washes and stop the watering of parks and gardens but none has been enforced yet. Nevertheless, so-called "water police" from the water companies, who have powers to prosecute over unauthorised use of water backed by fines of up to £400, have begun patrolling areas where restrictions have been imposed.

Eastern England, from Yorkshire to Kent, has been hit because it relies on ground water which has not been replenished by winter rain.

A spokesman for the London Weather Centre, which predicts more hot weather this week before thundery rain intervenes, said: "Absolute drought is a period of at least 15 consecutive days with less than 0.2 millimetres of rain. It doesn't mean that there's no water in the reservoirs, so it may be a bit alarmist to say it is an official drought."

The Water Services Association said: "This is not a drought like 1976 when the government had to appoint a minister of water."

Forecast, page 22

Arts win higher profile in Thatcher reshuffle

By ROBIN OAKLEY, POLITICAL EDITOR

THIRTY-ONE ministers were involved in a complicated reshuffle of the middle ranks of the government yesterday, which strengthened the departments of education and transport and increased the pro-European tendency at the Foreign Office.

It also signalled that the departments of employment and energy may well be merged with bigger ministries in the next parliament. Both lost a minister of state and gained only a parliamentary secretary to reflect diminishing responsibilities.

The chief beneficiary of the reshuffle was David Mellor, who was given his own department for the first time, taking over as arts minister. Mr Mellor, who becomes a privy councillor, will complete the remaining stages of the Broadcasting Bill, which he has been seeing through the Commons as Home Office Minister of State. The government intends to give the arts a higher profile.

One change which intrigued MPs was that Sir George Young, dropped as a junior minister four years ago, was brought back as number three in the Conservative whips' office. Some MPs saw his return as an olive branch to the party rebels on the community charge, of which he was a critic. Another

surprise move was the resignation as Minister of State for Energy of Peter Morrison to become the prime minister's parliamentary eyes and ears as her parliamentary private secretary.

Mr Morrison, a one-time whip and former deputy chairman of the party, has long been one of Mrs Thatcher's inner circle. In the run-up to the next election she has clearly felt the need to have at her side a trusted and experienced figure. Mrs Thatcher's previous PPS, Mark Lennox-Boyd, becomes a parliamentary secretary at the Foreign Office.

Six ministers left the government yesterday. Those to go at their own request were Richard Luce, the arts minister, Lord Trevelyan, Minister of State at the Department of Trade and Industry, and Tony Durant, a Tory whip.

Peter Bottomley was dropped from the Northern Ireland office and will not be replaced. Michael Neubert, a parliamentary secretary at the defence ministry, also lost his post.

As expected, both junior ministers were moved from the education department. Angela Rumbold, the Minister of State, went to the same position at the Home Office, where she is expected to chair the ministerial group on wom-

en's issues. She was replaced by Timothy Eggar. Robert Jackson, the parliamentary secretary, was moved to the same rank at employment.

Tristan Garel-Jones, formerly deputy chief whip and a keen European, moved to the Foreign Office as Minister of State in place of Francis Maude, more of a Euro-sceptic, who will take over the vacant job of Financial Secretary at the Treasury after completing his present visit to China. In other changes at the Treasury, the Earl of Caithness also moved to the Foreign Office as a Minister of State while Richard Ryder was promoted from economic secretary to his old post. Joan Meples, the MP for Lewisham West and the only backbencher in the reshuffle, was made economic secretary.

In other promotions Tim Sainsbury moved up from parliamentary secretary at the Foreign Office to minister of state at the Department of Trade and Industry. The same position was given to Lord Heslth, who is to become the government's chief economic spokesman in the Lords.

The transport department under Cecil Parkinson was also strengthened with the

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Leading article, page 13

Shares follow US fall

By OUR FINANCIAL STAFF

LONDON shares suffered yesterday from a plunge on Wall Street leaving the FT-SE 100 index down 40.4 points at 2359.7.

The London fall came despite a UK trade deficit of £1.36 billion, barely unchanged on the previous month and in line with market forecasts. Just after the announcement of the current account figures, the FT-SE 100 was up 5.2 points.

In New York, stocks tumbled during frenzied trading. The Dow Jones industrial average fell more than 100 points before recovering some losses by early afternoon to stand 75 points lower. The Wall Street fall began when traders starting cashing in shares, wary of a batch of poor US company results in the next few weeks.

In London the dollar fell to a two-year low against the German mark of DM1.6290 after touching 1.6245, compared with Friday's close of 1.6415.

Britain's balance of payments deficit for the first half of the year totalled just over £9 billion, compared with the Treasury's budget forecast for the year of £15 billion.

Gap widens, page 23

INSIDE

Backing for Scargill

The future of Arthur Scargill, president of the National Union of Mineworkers, divided miners yesterday when leaders of 38 branches in Yorkshire effectively censured the national executive committee decision to pursue him through the courts over £1.4m of Russian money. Page 5

Rushdie appeal

Mohammed Fayyaz, the distributor of a film which depicts the death of author Salman Rushdie, is to lodge an appeal today against a ban on its video release. Page 3

Unified anthem

East Germany's national anthem, *Aufstand aus Ruinen* (arisen from ruins) looks like disappearing when the joint German parliament meets to vote on a new anthem. Page 9
Leading article, page 13

Fossil clue

A fossil found by scientists on the north Yorkshire moors has shed new light on climatic changes. Page 17

Degree results

Degrees from the University of Sheffield are published today. Page 35

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EC ministers will study Major plan

From MICHAEL BINYON IN BRUSSELS

BRITAIN'S European Community partners listened sympathetically yesterday to a detailed exposition by John Major, the Chancellor of the Exchequer, of his proposals for a hard ecu, and agreed to study them at a special meeting of the powerful EC monetary committee in September.

But the committee, of central bankers and finance ministry officials from all 12 states, yesterday broadly endorsed the Delors report on economic and monetary union, and left Britain as the sole dissent.

Mr Major said his plans were praised by both Jacques Delors, the Commission president, and by the Italian finance minister Guido Carli, who presided over yesterday's meeting of EC finance ministers. Many other countries

Sir Alan Walters and Sir Michael Butler, page 12

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Full report, page 3

Volunteer detectives help 'the White King'

By MARK SOUSTER AND EDWARD GORMAN

LANCASHIRE police investigating the disappearance of a suspected murder victim continued yesterday to be inundated with suggested solutions to a complex riddle which they believe will lead to the discovery of the body in southern Ireland.

In spite of possible new leads provided by *The Times* chess correspondent Raymond Keene, Irish police said last night there was no truth to rumours that teams of police officers were searching guest houses (the initials GH appear in the riddle) around Fermoy, Co Cork. They also said they were not aware of searches in or near Limerick or Cork city.

Police turned to Mr Keene for assistance in unravelling the puzzle written in code which was given to

them by a computer expert. The notes which relate to four chess pieces and their moves, a chessboard and a map, were handed over after the man was arrested last month on fraud charges. He is thought to know the whereabouts of Theresa Terry, aged 43.

After publication of the story in *The Times*, dozens of amateur sleuths rang with their interpretations of the clues. These are being analysed by police in Lancashire from where the woman disappeared in January and in southern Ireland. Her body is thought to lie in a grave near Limerick.

Mr Keene deduced that the woman's body could be buried in a churchyard at a place with the initials HG which could be the name of a farm or a landmark or simply stand for "hallowed ground" or "her grave". Detective Superintendent Roy

Fletcher, who has been dubbed "the white king" by his colleagues in Lancashire CID as the result of Mr Keene's analysis, said yesterday that he disagreed with some deductions made by Mr Keene, a grandmaster, but that his involvement had thrown new light on aspects of the enquiry.

Both men agree that the four chess pieces relate to people involved in the mystery, the black king being the man, the black pawn his brother and the black queen the missing woman. However, Mr Fletcher departs from Mr Keene's theory that the black queen and the black lady-in-waiting are one and the same. "I am pretty sure I know who the lady-in-waiting is," Mr Fletcher said, adding that he had believed for some weeks that Mrs Terry was buried near Limerick. All new leads and promising theories are

being passed to the Garda which confirmed that they had read Mr Keene's analysis but had not launched any new lines of enquiry as a result. Mrs Terry's disappearance was featured in the programme *Garda Patrol* two weeks ago.

"The interest expressed in this problem has been staggering," Mr Keene said. "I have been inundated with calls from news agencies all over Western Europe and the English speaking world. People from the chess world have also been in touch with their ideas. Fortunately they have agreed with my analysis. There are one or two details within the puzzle which still elude me but broadly speaking I have done all I can now and it is over to the police."

Backbench explosion as Renton cracks the whip

By PHILIP WEBSTER
CHIEF POLITICAL
CORRESPONDENT

THE prime minister's cabinet reshuffle yesterday was disrupted by a ferociously outspoken attack on her chief whip by a maverick Conservative MP who was in no danger of figuring in her ministerial changes.

Nicholas Winterton, MP for Macclesfield, dispensed with the traditional courtesies surrounding dealings between the whips' office and errant backbenchers to accuse Timothy Renton of discourtesy and impudence. Mr Renton's patience with an MP who has been a frequent rebel and open critic of ministers apparently snapped last week when he sent him a letter complaining about his voting record and a long succession of verbal assaults on ministers.

In what seems to fore-shadow a tough new disciplinary attitude to persistent offenders, a copy of the letter was sent to Mr Winterton's constituency chairman and area chairman. Mr Winterton refused yesterday to publish Mr Renton's letter. So did Mr Renton. But the whips' office said the MP was free to do so, and wondered why he had not.

Friends of Mr Winterton interpreted the letter as a threat that he would have the Tory whip withdrawn unless he toed the line. Friends of Mr Renton maintained that there had been no such threats. In any event, Mr Winterton unleashed a venomous volley at Mr Renton, and for good measure sent a copy to the prime minister.

"I am surprised and disappointed at the impudent and discourteous tone of your letter," he began. "Having been a member of the group of Tory MPs who campaigned to get our present prime minister elected to the leadership of the Conservative party in 1975 against the pressure and might of the party establishment at that time..." More of the same followed. Then he told Mr Renton: "I am not prepared to receive ill-considered lectures from you or any member of the whips' office, all of whom have been in the House for fewer years than I have."

"As for your reference to my commitment and loyalty, this criticism is beyond contempt. My commitment to politics is 100 per cent and my loyalty is to my country, my constituency and a way of life."

He went on: "You refer to my behaviour and attitude in the House. Ever since I came into politics 28 years ago I have been forceful and positive and have been totally committed to the causes which I have taken up."

Letters from the chief whip to rebel backbenchers are part and parcel of the gentlemanly manner in which such exchanges usually take place. Last Easter more than a dozen were sent letters complaining about their voting record. In Mr Winterton's case the correspondence continued until yesterday's explosion.

Mellor to give arts ministry a high profile

By SIMON TAIT, ARTS CORRESPONDENT

THE switch of arts ministers within two years of a general election is seen as a signal from Margaret Thatcher that the arts will be an election issue. Richard Luce, who had asked to go, has ensured that the government's record is defensible, and David Mellor will be expected to go on the attack with it.

Mr Mellor is being brought in undoubtedly because he has a higher profile than Mr Luce, according to observers, and at 41 he is an ambitious young minister looking at a cabinet job after the election, if the government wins.

Against expectations Mr Luce won a great victory for the arts last autumn when he got a 12 per cent funding increase against an expected 2 per cent. It was a victory that not only relieved the burden on the subsidised arts but simultaneously defused accusations against the government of philistinism.

In 1985 Mr Luce, the only Falklands survivor of Lord Carrington's parliamentary Foreign Office team, followed the charismatic Lord Gower into the arts job. The act was considered a hard one to follow. Mr Luce admitted he had no knowledge of the arts but was "prepared to learn". His tenure, the longest of any arts minister, is seen by political opponents and allies as even harder to follow than Lord Gower's.

His achievements began with his introduction of three-year funding for the arts, almost universally welcomed because it gave organisations perspective to plan into the future. It meant a commitment from the Treasury at a time when inflation was running at 3 per cent, but it became a pyrrhic victory when inflation began to take off.

Mr Luce will take the credit for introducing the mixture of private and public subsidy that has become known as "plural funding" by emphasising the self-help potential for the arts in getting sponsorship. Then came his coup last year, getting £66 million out of the Treasury to at least level the inflation erosion graph. He has got in place the principle of tax incentives for giving, if the terms are as yet modest, and the government's arts funding record now shows a respectable 22 per cent increase in its 11 years.

In March Mr Luce introduced the most dramatic change in arts policy, which may be seen as his greatest triumph or his greatest blunder. He has put in place the devolution of most of the Arts Council's 160 clients to enhanced regional boards to give the council space to devise a national arts strategy.

It was this over issue that Luce Rittner, secretary gen-

eral of the Arts Council, resigned in April, saying it was the end of the council and of the "arm's length" principle of government subsidy. Last night Mr Rittner paid tribute to the outgoing minister, but added: "It is very good that the prime minister has finally recognised that the arts are important in terms of votes, but I hope it does not mean an increase in the amount of government meddling."

The panegyric in the Commons for Mr Luce that greeted yesterday's first rumours that he was going was all the more unusual in that it came from Mark Fisher, the opposition arts spokesman; Channel 4 researchers putting together the profile of Mr Luce for Sunday's present *A Week In Politics* profile, compiled in the wake of his announcement of devolution guidelines, were unable to find anyone to say a word against him.

The full list of appointments is:

Privy Council Office Minister of State, David Mellor (Minister for the Arts); Ministry of Defence: Parliamentary Under-Secretary, Kenneth Carlisle; Department of Education and Science: Minister of State, Timothy Eggar; Parliamentary Under-Secretary, Michael Fallon; Department of Employment: Parliamentary Under-Secretaries, Robert Jackson, Eric Forth, Viscount Ullswater; Department of Energy: Parliamentary Under-Secretary, Patrick Nicholls; Robert Atkins (Minister for Sport); The Lord Strathclyde, Foreign Office: Ministers of State, The Earl of Caithness, Tristan Garel-Jones; Parliamentary Under-Secretary, Mark Lennox-Boyd; Home Office: Minister of State, Mrs Angela Rumbold.

Department of Trade and Industry: Ministers of State, Timothy Sainsbury, Lord Hesket, Department of Transport: Minister of State, The Lord Brabazon of Tara; Parliamentary Under-Secretary, Christopher Chope; Treasury: Financial Secretary, Francis Maude; Paymaster General, Richard Ryder; Economic Secretary, John Maples; Whips' Office: Treasurer (deputy Chief Whip), Alastair Goodlad; Comptroller, Sir George Young.



Luce: mixture of private and public subsidy



Eric Smith has a farewell hug with his daughter Karen, holding a glass of soft drink, at her detention centre

Another turn on the peers' carousel

By SHEILA GUNN
POLITICAL REPORTER

THE sideways shift of Lord Caithness from the Treasury to the Foreign Office indicates Margaret Thatcher's recognition of the need for a more experienced foreign affairs spokesman in the upper house.

Lord Caithness is expected to take over responsibility for southeast Asia, the Far East and the southern Pacific, but he will answer for the government in the Lords on all Foreign Office issues, including European affairs.

The transfer, together with Lord Denham's continued survival as chief whip, shows the shortage of high-calibre candidates for ministerial office in the so-called "house of experts". The Lords has 15 ministers plus six whips.

A clutch of hereditary peers in their thirties and forties are caught up the annual carousel of ministerial jobs, landing each time where the legislation and the pressure is heaviest. This year Lord Trefgarne has resigned as trade minister, after 13 years on the front bench, to find a job in industry.

Lord Caithness, who is moving to his seventh government department, was pencilled in long ago by Lord Whitelaw as a possible future leader of the house and he is still on course for that goal, even though his outside experience is limited to a stint as a chartered surveyor.

Lord Brabazon, another of Lord Whitelaw's original band of "boy scouts" and the outgoing Foreign Office minister in the Lords, has served in five departments, and now returns as minister of state to the transport department, where he has previously been a whip and a junior minister.

Lord Hesket moves up another rung on the ministerial ladder from junior environment minister to minister of state at the trade and industry department. Lord Whitelaw marked down Lord Hesket, 40 this autumn, as a potential chief whip to take over from Lord Denham. Since he first stood at the dispatch box as a junior whip to answer a question about hedgerows, Lord Hesket has shown a talent for thinking on his feet.

His place at the environment department will be taken by Lord Strathclyde, who was persuaded to give up his hopes of becoming an MEP to join the Lords front bench two years ago. The former whip Lord Ullswater gets his first ministerial job, taking Lord Strathclyde's place as junior employment minister.

Dealing with the joker in a painful reshuffle

By ROBIN OAKLEY, POLITICAL EDITOR

RESHUFFLES have their lighter moments too. Harold Wilson once looked up in horror to see that the figure shown into his room in mid-shuffle was not the man he wished to appoint to a defence ministry job but his brother, also a Labour MP. Thinking rapidly, he offered him the non-governmental post of second church estates commissioner, which was gracefully accepted.

Richard Ryder, promoted again yesterday, was a Conservative whip when he was called to the telephone and asked to go to Downing Street to be given his first ministerial post. He took it to be a

practical joke, ignored the call and had to be re-summoned later to be appointed to the ministry of agriculture.

Few prime ministers have enjoyed reshuffling. They have to make room to bring on new talent but the parting with colleagues is frequently painful. Atlee went for the short sharp shock, telling one minister with the tenacity to inquire why his resignation was being demanded: "No bloody good, that's why."

Harold Wilson preferred shuffling ministers to shuffling people and his government changes usually failed to live up to the sometimes

bloodthirsty trailers. His sacking of one minister was said to have been so convulsed in its efforts to spare pain that the man concerned telephoned back and said he would like to keep the job after all, not realising he had been made an offer he could not refuse.

Wilson, bemusing complacencies imposed by the need to balance age, region, social background and party sect, called the process "a nightmarish, multi-dimensional jigsaw puzzle". Margaret Thatcher has, if anything, chosen to make it more so with a policy of moving middle-rank ministers around Whitehall to broaden their experience on the way to the cabinet.

It looked easier in Harold Macmillan's time when most of the cabinet were either related to him or had accompanied him to Eton and tended to stay rather longer in their jobs. But then, on Friday July 13, 1962, he disposed of a third of his cabinet on the Night of the Long Knives. "Greater love hath no man," murmured Jeremy Thorpe, "than that he lay down his friends for his life."

Mrs Thatcher has not been particularly savage shuffler. She once declared: "I am not a good 'butcher', but I have learned to carve the joint". Inevitably, she has sacked more ministers than anyone else because she has been prime minister longer than anybody this century.

Ministerial teams, too, have grown. In the early 1900s the government made do with between 30 and 40. By the second world war there were some 60 ministers. Now there are 85 ministers in the Commons, plus 14 whips. There are also 15 ministers and half a dozen whips in the Lords.

There is a grey area sometimes over whether people have chosen to resign, retired or have been sacked. By any count, however, there have been 34 departures at cabinet level and at least 64 at more junior levels since Mrs Thatcher came to office. Sir Geoffrey Howe is the sole remaining member of the cabinet who sat at her first top table in 1979. There are, effectively, enough ex-ministers to staff a government.

Although the prime minister has said how sorry she feels for those who have a Whitehall desk and a ministerial car one day and nothing the next, she has not done the one thing which might have helped those who lose out. The top people's salary review board recommended that sacked ministers should at least be given three months' pay. So far as Downing Street could recall yesterday, nothing had been done to put that into practice.

Atkins faced with tough sports tasks

ROBERT Atkins has several tasks awaiting him as the new sports minister.

Football hooliganism is being controlled rather than cured and it is only a matter of time before there is a big outbreak of violence again in Britain or abroad. He also has to continue the battle against the use of drugs in sport although his background might not give him the commitment of his predecessor.

With the problem of sporting links with South Africa now less acute, Mr Atkins's main problem will be the administration of British sport. Many people, including representatives of the government and the Opposition, want the Sports Council, which distributes more than £40 million of taxpayers' money, to be under the control of the government. This would eliminate much of the duplication of effort which has

plagued British sport and also give it the necessary direction. However, the government would need to recast the royal charter to achieve this and it might be very low on the government's list of priorities.

Mr Atkins, aged 44, a former computer sales executive, was educated at Highgate school, north London. He has been sporting interests, dominated by cricket. He is a member of the MCC, Middlesex and Lancashire county cricket clubs and the Lords. His other recreations include ecclesiology and wine.

He has been personal private secretary at the department of industry and later minister without portfolio in the employment department. In 1987 he became under-secretary at the trade and industry department. He and his wife have a son and daughter.

No turning back for China-bound Maude

FRANCIS Maude's transfer to the Treasury came as he was on his way to Peking, where tomorrow he is to become the first British minister to visit China since the Tiananmen Square massacre.

Before leaving on a trip that includes a visit to Hong Kong, Mr Maude indicated that Britain wanted to improve relations with China and said that the European Community should respond to gestures by China and should not isolate it.

Mr Maude leaves the Foreign Office, where, as minister of state, he was closely involved in forming the plan to bring stability to Hong

Kong by granting passports to 50,000 families. He also had responsibility for Western Europe and the EC, on which his views were seen as being close to those of the prime minister and a counterbalance to the more pro-British elements in the Foreign Office.

Mr Maude, a leading figure in the Thatcherite No Turning Back group, has had a rapid rise in politics since being elected MP for Warwickshire North in 1983, and at 37, is tipped for high office. However, his position in the Commons is at risk because he has only a 2,829 majority and is vulnerable to Labour at the next election.

Accused girl gives Thais her life story

OFFICIALS of the juvenile offenders department in Bangkok yesterday heard details of the family background of Patricia Cahill, aged 17, the Birmingham girl accused of heroin trafficking (Neil Kelly writes). She and her parents, Patrick and Frances Cahill, told the Thai officials about her life at home, her schooling and her failure to get a job. The officials said that they were compiling a personal dossier that a juvenile court would have to refer to when it begins hearing charges against her. No date has been set for the hearings.

The officials must note about Miss Cahill's disputes with her parents, which led to her leaving home to share a flat with Karen Smith, aged 18, also accused of heroin trafficking.

A member of the law firm assisting the Cahill family said that she had never seen a teenage girl as much in need as Patricia of care and affection. The British Consul in Bangkok, Mr John Francis, will visit the detention centre in which the girls are being held. It may be many weeks before the courts hear the charges, which the girls deny.

Because she is over 18, Miss Smith is an adult in Thai law and must be tried in the criminal court. She will make her first appearance there tomorrow when she is due to be remanded in custody. Thai newspapers and television are prominently reporting the actions of British journalists who came to Bangkok with the girls' parents. British newspapers are paying the parents' travel expenses. Bangkok newspapers said that scuffles broke out when the British contingent tried to stop local photographers from taking pictures of the girls and their parents.

Housing delay
A £1 billion cash shortage at the Housing Corporation, which channels public money to housing associations, will mean an eight-month delay in starting new housing projects for the homeless, the pressure group Shelter said yesterday. Although existing projects would be completed early, there was no money left to pay for work to begin on projects that were approved in the current financial year, Shelter said.

Poll tax deadline
Capped councils that have refused to cut poll tax bills to levels set by the government were yesterday given between 24 and 48 hours to justify their action as ministers intensified efforts to make them fall into line. In a letter to all 21 capped councils, Chris Patten, the environment secretary, demanded an explanation of the methods used to calculate revised community charges.

Appeal lost
John Cannan, aged 36, a former car salesman jailed for life in April last year after being convicted of kidnapping and murdering Shirley Banks in 1987, had his appeal dismissed yesterday. Cannan, of Leigh Woods, Bristol, was also given a life sentence for rape in 1986 and 10 years for attempted kidnapping in 1987. The Court of Appeal found that there had been no miscarriage of justice.

BNF fined
British Nuclear Fuels was fined £1,000 with £4,600 costs by Whitehaven magistrates yesterday after an incident at Sellafield, in Cumbria. On-site transfers of spent nuclear fuel were made in October without a working instrumented package and alarm system.

Henry Globe, for the Health and Safety Executive, said. However, government inspector had said there had been no danger of contamination.

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Priority red route plan for London traffic

By MICHAEL DYNES
TRANSPORT CORRESPONDENT

WHEEL-clamping, Draconian fines for illegal parking, and local authority traffic wardens could be introduced throughout greater London under a proposals for combating road congestion outlined by Cecil Parkinson, the transport secretary, yesterday.

The initiative is part of a wide-ranging package of legislative proposals, known as the red route scheme, which are designed to improve traffic speeds by introducing a 300-mile network of priority routes on trunk roads throughout the capital.

The detailed proposals are a refinement of the consultation document, *Traffic in London*, published by the department in December. The document laid the groundwork for a radical overhaul of London's traffic and parking controls, providing motorists, hauliers and public transport with quicker and more predictable journeys. The legislation re-

quired to introduce the red route network could be in force from 1992, and will be accompanied by the appointment of a traffic director, responsible for co-ordinating the scheme with local authorities.

The estimated £25 million cost for implementing the network, as well as the £10 million annual running cost, will be paid by the Department of Transport. The traffic director will be empowered to override local authorities which try to obstruct the scheme. A trial red route scheme, running from Archway, in Islington, north London, to Commercial Road, in Tower Hamlets, east London, via Aldwych in central London, is scheduled to start in October after a London-wide publicity campaign, and is expected to last 12 to 18 months.

The powers of traffic wardens will be enhanced, enabling them to authorise wheel-clamping and vehicle removals anywhere on the red route network. Local authori-

ties will be allowed to introduce and regulate a system of on-street parking, which will include powers to clamp and remove illegally parked vehicles. A sliding scale of fines will be implemented, aimed at providing different levels of deterrent for different levels of offence, which in the case of local authority traffic

wardens will contribute to the cost of enforcement. Levels of fines have still to be decided.

Mr Parkinson said that the proposals form a coherent package of measures to help drivers move around London more easily and safely. "The controls on those who break parking laws will be tough, but the benefits to other drivers

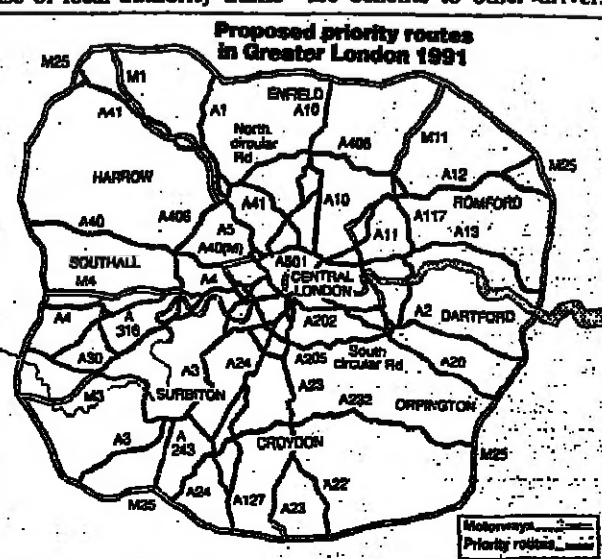
and local communities will be considerable," he said.

However, Martin Mogridge, a transport specialist at University College London, said that the red route network might increase the ability of the roads to cope with more vehicles, although traffic speeds were unlikely to improve.

Dr Mogridge said: "In the past few years we have seen the introduction of urban clearways, one-way systems, parking controls, yellow box junctions and prohibited right turns, all of which increased traffic capacity, but none of which have increased traffic speeds, because increased capacity is soon taken up by increased numbers of vehicles."

Traffic in London: Further Developments of the Traffic in London Initiative. Available from Room CS/19A, Department of Transport, 2 Marsham Street, London, SW1P 3EE.

Letters, page 13
Spaghetti junction, page 18



Amateur sleuths try to unravel chess conundrum

By ROBIN STACEY

THEORIES about where the body of Mrs Theresa Clare Terry is buried in southern Ireland came in thick and fast yesterday. Wherever *The Times* is read, from New York to New Zealand, puzzle-solvers were putting their wits against each other to try to unravel the clues of the enigma.

Most concerned with the analysis by Raymond Keene, chess correspondent of *The Times*, of the puzzle passed to him by Lancashire police. The conundrum in the form of a chess problem was devised by a man suspected of burying his girlfriend's body after her death in Ireland in January. The man told the police that if they solved the problem, they would find a shallow grave containing her body.

Explanations ranged from inspired stabs in the dark to meticulously argued mathematical analyses and chess endgame solutions. Many callers familiar with the part of southern Ireland identified by *The Times* chess correspondent offered possible burial sites.

Colin Russ, secretary of the British chess problem society, introduced a new dimension

to the puzzle with the observation that in chess problem-solving theory, pieces of one colour can move consecutively without interruption from the other colour.

"From a problemist's point of view the puzzle resembles a 'series help stalemate' in which black can make a series of moves without white replying," he said.

"In the context of this problem, white must make one move to stalemate the game which symbolises the imprisonment of the suspect. The white king has to find that move from all the possibilities, but on the 'timescale' this white move is missing. The suspect is cooking a snook at the police and saying 'you will never find this move'."

Adam Black, a computer analyst programmer, concluded that in rational phonetic spelling the letters EEC indicate the word "key" in reverse. The suspect is at the same time laughing at the police by punning that the problem is EE-C (easy).

Brian Curtin, a barrister from Tralee, Co Kerry, suggests that the "HG" where the victim's body lies could be the Holy Ground public house in

the St John's area of Limerick. "According to Mr Keene's analysis, the body is buried near Limerick at a place with the initials HG. The Holy Ground is in a desolate area and I could well imagine a body being interred there," he said.

John Norledge, from Claverdon, Warwickshire, attempted a visual interpretation of the arcane symbol resembling a compass and linked by an arrow to the move for "Friday 19". He observed that the motif looked like a trout fisherman's fly, with the hook to the right. The letter H underneath refers to "hotel", a coded indication that on Friday 19 when the party was in Dublin it stayed at a guest house named something like "the fisherman's arms".

Christopher Cowley, a technology consultant, viewed the moves as a record of complex movements designed to establish an alibi for the suspect. On "Tuesday 23" the suspect reminds himself that "BK is S here", indicating which persona he is on this day. This is achieved by the black king giving a credit card to the black pawn and the carrying out of a hole-in-the-wall transaction erroneously "proving" that the black king was where he was not, Mr Cowley, from Royston, Hertfordshire, said. He points out that the suspect specifically states at the bottom of the moves that at MI "IV is not equal to VI". The suspect is pretending to be in location IV when in fact he is in location VI.

Patricia Morrison interpreted the map drawn by the suspect as Northern Ireland, rather than southern Ireland. Mrs Morrison, of Radwinter, Essex, ties in the word "black" in the bottom left corner of the map with "the black north", a name for Ulster.

Dr Michael Watts, a general practitioner from Dauchet, Berkshire, is convinced that the letters HG refer simply to "her garden". He believed her body will be found buried behind her home in Preston. Mrs Teresa Farrell, a housewife from Epsom, suggested Clare Castle as a burial site because of the quibble on Mrs Terry's middle name.

Eamon Ryan, the Tipperary-born proprietor of a London printing firm, said that the triangular shape of Britain in the map strongly resembles Gallarus Oratory, a monument on the Dingle peninsula, in Kerry. The monument, a prayer house commemorating a 10th century monk, is known locally as the House of Gallarus. This would tie in with Mr Keene's theory that the body is buried at a place bearing the initials HG. Mr Ryan's suggestion was echoed by Ronald Parrott, a retired teacher from Egham, Surrey, who said the monument was also known as the "holy grail".

Michael Phelan, an amateur pilot from Weston-super-Mare, Avon, identified the symbol of an H in a circle as the legend for a helicopter pad on aeronautical maps. The crucial letters HG signify a hang-glider, the symbol for which is a pair of batman-like wings, he pointed out.

Peter Tennant, a business counsellor from Hexham, Northumberland, disagreed with Raymond Keene's interpretation of the symbol resembling a seven as a vector, indicating movement. He believes that in the entry for Tuesday 23, the figure refers to the numeral seven, and the coded sentence reports that the black king travelled from Dublin to Limerick along the N7 road.

Ian Licence, a former teacher from Sidcup, Kent, recognised the letters EOT as "end of term" and NPS as "new pupils start". Another caller thought EOT represented "end of transmission", a term familiar to computer users.



Mr Fletcher and Detective Sergeant Michael Tommonoy study a map of Ireland as part of their investigations into the disappearance of Theresa Terry (right). The chess conundrum which police asked Mr Keene to help to solve is believed to contain clues to her whereabouts

Rushdie film ban goes to appeal

By LIN JENKINS

THE British distributor of a Pakistani film featuring the cinematic death of Salman Rushdie is to lodge his appeal today against a ban on its release on video in Britain (Lin Jenkins writes).

Mohammed Fayyaz says he is confident the British Board of Film Classification's ruling will be overturned. He says that Mr Rushdie's wish that the video should be released and any alleged defamation dealt with by the courts should prompt the video appeals committee to lift the ban. Should it do so, he plans to sub-title the film in English to reach a wider audience.

The appeal committee, headed by the former deputy director of public prosecutions, Peter Barnes, is expected to meet within two weeks. Only about six of the 4,500 films that come before the film classification board for licence to be released on video each year are banned.

Mr Fayyaz, whose Famous Video company of Tooting, south London, owns the copyright for distribution of the film outside India and Pakistan, is anxious to release the video before pirate copies flood the market. "Even though it has not yet been released on video in Pakistan, it has already turned up here. When demand is so high there is nothing you can do to stop people seeing it, whatever the censors say."

"I understand the appeals panel is independent and I cannot believe they can think that this film, which really amounts to a spoof, is criminally libellous."

The Muslim community in Britain has denounced the ban as an example of double standards in the light of the refusal to withdraw *The Satanic Verses* from publication on the ground that it is blasphemous to the Islamic religion.

Community leaders dismiss the classification board's claim that it would expose Mr Rushdie to public hatred, saying he already is hated because of the book.

The film, *International Guerrillas*, portrays a fictional Mr Rushdie as a playboy drunkard who tortures and murders Muslims as part of an international plot before he is killed by a bolt of lightning. James Ferman, director of the film board, said the decision was the most difficult it had ever taken. "Those of us who believe in freedom of expression believed strongly there was an argument for not increasing the grievance of the Muslim community and taking the film with a pinch of salt. It contains a very serious libel which is so overstated we wondered if it was possible to excuse it as stock melodrama."

Video industry growth goes into fast forward

IN THE jargon employed by marketing men to shed positive light, the video industry has been the fastest growing leisure market in the past five years.

Some people are, of course, worried by the public's enthusiasm for slumping in an armchair, remote control in hand, but those in the video industry are not among them. Nor are those in the film industry. The growth of the video market, in sales and rentals, has boosted cinema audiences.

According to the government's statistical analysis of social trends, 42 per cent of households have video recorders. The highest density is in the South-East, with 46 per cent, and the lowest, 38 per cent, in Yorkshire and the South-West.

More than 7.2 million videotapes are rented out each week from the video libraries which have mushroomed on the high street like estate agents before them. The figure has risen by more than 500,000 in a year, and with promotion campaigns planned by leading distributors the figure is set to almost double in a couple of years.

However, just 27 per cent of video recorder owners account for 73 per cent of those who rent, and this year sales and rentals have levelled off,

partly because of satellite and cable channels. Last year the video industry netted £850 million, twice the revenue from cinema. So successful has it been that the government is discussing with Sir Richard Attenborough, head of the British Screen Advisory Council, the possibility of raising money from rentals and sales for Britain's beleaguered film makers.

Having cast off the sleazy image of earlier days, when video "nasties" were rented to children, more than one in four videotapes rented now is a comedy. Children's entertainment accounts for 31 per cent, music for 22 per cent and less than 1 per cent is pornography.

Most film companies release their wares on video within weeks or months of general release. Some let the tapes at £60 or so to rental shops, or sell them for similar sums for several months before releasing a cheaper version for general sale, while others are now selling the tapes immediately rather than relying on income from rental.

Warner Home Video is increasingly choosing the latter course, believing that the rental industry buys too few videotapes of a film at the outset when prices are high, causing them to be booked up

through sheer popularity. If customers have to wait, trade is lost, Warner claims, and the public chooses another film.

Warner says that it will continue to sell videotapes soon after general release unless the 6,000 rental outlets change tactics and buy more of the expensive copies aimed at the trade.

The strong tradition of cinema in India and Pakistan, which combined produce around 1,000 titles a year, coupled with the linguistic isolation of many first generation immigrants has made the ethnic videotape market worth more than £8 million a year in Britain.

Mohammed Fayyaz, head of Famous Video, is understandably coy about the amount of money his business will lose if the controversial film depicting Salman Rushdie's death fails to get a licence. He may have taken the film to the £1 million a year mark in nine years, but the sum paid for rights to *International Guerrillas* was more than usual as he anticipated demand to be five times higher than normal.

With European and North American rights to 1,600 Pakistani and Indian films, his firm is one of the top four distributing videos from the sub-continent.

Scientist died from rat disease

By DANIEL TREISMAN

A SCIENTIST studying water pollution died from a rare disease caused by contact with rats' urine, an inquest was told yesterday.

Christopher Mills, aged 36, died of Weil's disease in October after complaining of influenza-like symptoms. He was a fish population biologist at the Institute of Freshwater Ecology at Lake Windermere, Cumbria. A local authority health expert told the inquest in Kendal that the public should avoid paddling in ditches, ponds and slow-moving canals.

About three people die each year in England and Wales from Weil's disease out of a total of about 80 cases. The illness, which can also cause headaches, can be treated with antibiotics.

Dr Mills had visited Duddon estuary near Barrow-in-Furness with his family about a week before his death. "Our daughter Sally went paddling in the river," his widow Anne told the jury. She did not know if her husband had also gone in the water.

Two days later, Dr Mills complained of feeling ill and the following day he came home from work at lunchtime and went to bed. He died in hospital on October 7.

The jury returned an open verdict.

DPP to study broadcast by 'pub bomber'

By MELINDA WITTSTOCK, MEDIA CORRESPONDENT

THE DIRECTOR of Public Prosecutions will today consider whether to investigate Granada Television's screening last night of an interview with an unidentified man who confessed to planting the Birmingham pub bombs in 1974.

Producers of the *World in Action* programme, in which the unnamed and heavily-disguised man insisted that the six men convicted of the bombings were innocent, reaffirmed yesterday that they have no intention of telling police the identity or whereabouts of the alleged bomber, despite calls for their prosecution.

Lawyers of the Crown Prosecution Service watched the programme last night and will today consider what action to take, if any. Granada said that it does not expect to hear from the DPP about the programme, which follows its docu-drama, *Who Bombed Birmingham?*, last March in which four men alleged to have carried out the bombing were named.

Raymond Fitzwalter, head of Granada Television's current affairs department, said that the name of the alleged bomber, who described in great detail and with apparent remorse how he planted the bombs that killed 21 people, is already known to the authorities.

Ian Gow, Tory MP for Eastbourne, who resigned as Margaret Thatcher's parliamentary private secretary over the Anglo-Irish agreement, has attacked Granada and Nick Hayes, the programme's producer, for refusing to reveal the identity of the alleged bomber. He has called for the prosecution of senior Granada executives and of *World in Action* producers.

Mr Fitzwalter said: "When we put forward four names in *Who Bombed Birmingham?* we were attacked by the prime minister for engaging in 'trial by television'. Now we do the opposite in protecting the man's identity and we get the opposite response from the government. Some element of consistency in government policy would go a long way."

The authorities had not tried to follow up claims in the March programme. "One of the men is even in prison in Dublin and could be easily approached, but no one has



Gow: seeking prosecution of Granada executives

Explorer ventures into libel jungle

By ROBIN YOUNG

THE intrepid explorer Sir Ranulph Twisleton-Wykeham-Fiennes ventured into the depths of the Royal Courts of Justice yesterday in search of treasure. His counsel, Gareth Williams, QC, claimed "hefty" damages over a "naughty, mean-minded and spiteful" article "dripping with venom and acid".

Sir Ranulph, who is described by the *Guinness Book of Records* as the world's greatest living explorer, complained that the article libelled him by dismissing his exploits as never having achieved anything of scientific or historical worth.

Sir Ranulph, who is 46, was obliged in April to abandon a fourth attempt to be the first to walk unaided to the North Pole. Yesterday he was looking fit and tanned, having just flown in from the Dhofar region of Oman where he had been preparing for an archaeological expedition in search of Sumerian remains. He had come, Mr Williams told Mr Justice Michael Davies, to "nail the lie" that his efforts were valueless. The

article appeared in the Canadian magazine *Maclean's* in April 1988. The magazine has a circulation of 600,000. Although it sells only 400 copies in this country, two of those went to the Foreign and Commonwealth Office and the Commonwealth Secretariat libraries. This, Sir Ranulph claimed, could be damaging to his future plans, putting a stranglehold on his expeditions abroad.

Sir Ranulph said: "The people in the FCO are, on expeditions, able to put a stranglehold on getting there. Because I don't have money to mount expeditions I have to have the goodwill of people in those places."

Sir Ranulph has led seven major expeditions and some 20 research projects since 1969, and won the Livingstone Gold Medal for expeditionary leadership. He has been presented with the Polar Medal "with clasps" by the Queen for his expeditions to the Arctic and Antarctic, and has received an honorary doctorate from

Loughborough university. Mr Williams told the jurors: "You know the way of this world and you may think that, as often happens with someone who succeeds by his own efforts, smaller men with meaner hearts try to rubbish him." He said that the journalist Allan Fotheringham, who wrote the article, had shown himself to be a small man with a mean heart.

Kevin Doyle, editor of *Maclean's*, and Maclean Hunter, the publishers, co-defendants with Mr Fotheringham, deny the words complained of are defamatory.

Sir Ranulph said that when someone sent him a facsimile copy of the article he felt dejected and contaminated. He rang his wife as he always did when something good or bad happened. "This was maximum bad." He said that his chances of raising money through lecture tours could be affected by the article. "The damage it can do is enormous."

The hearing continues, and is expected to last three days.

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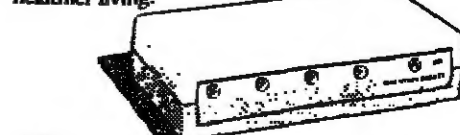
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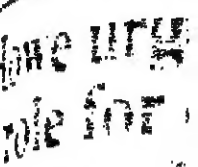
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Yorkshire miners back Scargill in Soviet cash affair

By TIM JONES, LABOUR CORRESPONDENT

THE battle over the future of Arthur Scargill, president of the National Union of Mineworkers, took a decisive turn yesterday when leaders of the 38 branches in his Yorkshire heartland effectively endorsed the national executive committee's decision to sue him for the return of £1.4 million of Russian money.

The move came as the four members of the sub-committee charged with unravelling the mystery of the money prepared to fly to Paris to meet Alain Simon, general secretary of the International Miners' Organisation (IMO), M Simon, condemned in the report by Gavin Lightman, QC, into the stewardship of the union, for his refusal to co-

operate, is the only man who knows the full story of the complex deals which led to the funds being deposited in bank accounts in Dublin and Vienna.

Yesterday, after a three hour meeting of the union's Yorkshire area council, Mr Ken Capstick, an executive member from the Selby coalfield, said: "When it comes to a political decision one of the things we don't like doing is running to the courts and taking our own officials and members before High Court judges."

The meeting, which represented a gathering of Mr Scargill's staunchest supporters, called for the affair to be resolved by negotiations be-

tween national officials, the IMO and any other third party. It said that ultimately the outcome should be determined by a specially convened national conference.

Mr Capstick said that the two Yorkshire members of the national executive had voted for legal action after being told that if they did not take action to protect NUM funds they could be in breach of trust themselves.

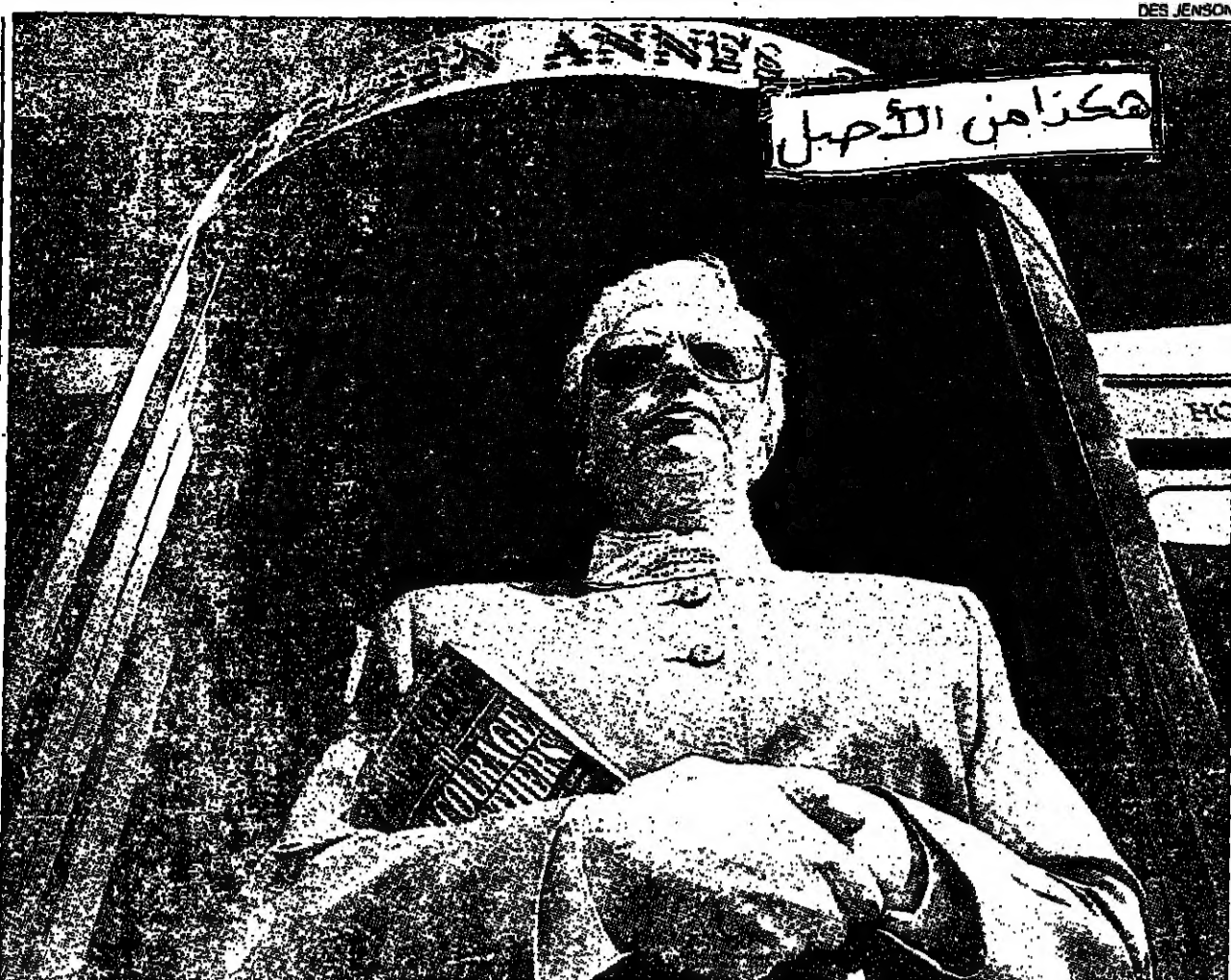
"The funds of the IMO are now frozen. No one can use them. We are in a position to sit down and try and sort the matter out once and for all," Ken Homer, general secretary of the Yorkshire area, said. "There was a consensus that this problem was one for the union to resolve and that the interest of the members was paramount."

Last night in Paris, an official at the IMO, an organisation described by Mr Lightman as "practically impenetrable", confirmed that the four-man sub-committee would be meeting M Simon today.

It is understood that the committee rejected an invitation to meet M Simon at the IMO headquarters in the Paris suburb and arranged instead a neutral encounter, at a venue near Charles de Gaulle airport. Mr Scargill, president of the IMO, and M Simon maintained that any money received from Soviet miners was donated for international use and not specifically to help British miners during their year-long strike.

Yesterday's intervention by the Yorkshire area will increase the rift in the union as to whether Mr Scargill should remain as president. While many of the smaller areas, including South Wales and Scotland, are now openly hostile to Mr Scargill, the sheer voting strength of Yorkshire would make it extremely difficult for any postal ballot to deliver the two thirds majority necessary to remove him.

M Simon, who also faces legal action, has claimed that the Soviet money is still intact. He said the decision by the NUM executive to sue Mr Scargill was "fantastic".



Iris Bentley, sister of Derek Bentley, who was hanged in 1953 for murdering a policeman, at the Home Office yesterday where she and a niece of the Home Secretary, David Waddington, the home secretary, to hold a public enquiry to consider evidence not produced at the 1952 trial.

Their visit coincided with the publication this week of an updated version of To

Encourage the Others, a book about the case which was first published in 1971 (John Young writes). David Yallop, the author, said yesterday that fresh evidence had come to light.

The only bullet produced at the trial by the director of the Metropolitan Police forensic laboratory was of 32 calibre, which could have come only from a police

gun, he said. Nor had the jury been told that Bentley had a mental age of nine or ten, an IQ of 66, was illiterate and suffered from epilepsy. Bentley, aged 19, was hanged although the fatal shot was found to have been fired by his accomplice, Christopher Craig, who, at 16, was too young for the death penalty. He was released after 10½ years.

Howe urges bigger role for elderly

By JILL SHERMAN, SOCIAL SERVICES CORRESPONDENT

THE growing number of elderly people should be looked at as a demographic opportunity rather than a problem, and more efforts should be made to recruit older staff, Sir Geoffrey Howe, the deputy prime minister, said yesterday.

Speaking at an Age Concern meeting in London, Sir Geoffrey hinted at a number of options which the government might adopt to end discrimination against the elderly. They could include raising the retirement age, introducing more flexible retirement policies and making children more responsible for aged parents.

Sir Geoffrey said that it would be disastrously short-sighted not to react to the powerful demographic trend towards an older population. The image of older people as helpless or incapable was belied by the facts, he said.

"Ninety-four per cent of old age pensioners do not live in residential care, and more than 80 per cent do all their own shopping, cooking, and housework. Many of them are keen and able to continue to

play an active role in society," Sir Geoffrey said.

"Surely it is better to harness the resource of active older people for their own sake and to release more resources for the genuinely under-privileged of all ages."

Sir Geoffrey pointed to surveys which had found that older workers could set an enviable example to younger colleagues. The surveys found that the elderly stayed in jobs longer, were less often absent and showed higher levels of customer services.

Although ageism legislation could not be ruled out, Sir Geoffrey said that it had had only limited success in the United States.

Sally Greengross, director of Age Concern, said that British pensioners were treated like children and subject to widespread discrimination in employment, health care and income. "The discrimination which may first be seen in the doctor's surgery may extend into the planning of services which are all too often weighted towards acute care for the younger population," she said.

Six years for solicitor who robbed clients

A SOLICITOR who stole more than £800,000 from clients' trust funds was jailed for six years yesterday. Andrew Bingham, aged 50, a tax expert at Theodore Goddard in the City, set up his own laundering operation to steal the money by moving it through company and bank accounts.

Michael Worsely, QC, for the prosecution, said that only £178,000 had been recovered. Bingham, of no fixed address, admitted 11 charges of stealing a total of £586,744 between 1984 and 1986. He also admitted obtaining by deception the execution of a £225,000 money order on one of the trust funds.

Robot to do prostate surgery

By NICK NUTTALL, TECHNOLOGY CORRESPONDENT

THE FIRST patients are to undergo prostate gland surgery at the hands of a British robot in trials planned for the end of the year, experts disclosed yesterday.

The trials, to be run in conjunction with the Institute of Urology in London, will test a specially designed mechanical surgeon built by Imperial College London. Encouraging pilot studies have been supervised by Anthony Timoney, a surgeon and research fellow at the institute, who has assisted the accuracy, speed and safety of robot-assisted surgery in operations in which a potato was used as the prostate gland.

Britain has Europe's lowest number of surgeons per head of population specialising in

this kind of medicine, and one in three men over 40 will require prostate surgery at some time in their lives. Tests indicate that a robot, supervised by a human surgeon, could cut theatre time from an hour to five minutes, and extend the working lives of surgeons, many of whom in their fifties suffer hand shakes that force them to retire.

Brian Davies, a mechanical engineer at the college's Centre for Robotics, said that the trials showed how robots were moving out of structured industrial environments into more complicated and unpredictable areas such as surgery and feeding the disabled.

The robot prostate surgeon, which carries a cutter and six

sensors linked to a camera and operating theatre display screen, has grown out of work adapting standard industrial robots to surgical tasks.

More than 30 men have recently undergone surgery using a modified industrial robot that, by restricting the surgeon's incisions to set limits, has achieved better results than conventional surgery.

Mr Davies said that safety implications had led to the decision that a specially designed machine was essential if genuine robot surgery were to arrive.

The Imperial machine will use an advanced computer brain and be fully motorised.

Science, pages 16 and 17

EC gives £44.3m in aid to regions

From MICHAEL BINYON, BRUSSELS

SCOTLAND and Yorkshire are to receive a total of £44.3 million in regional aid, Bruce Millan, the European commissioner for regional policy, announced yesterday. The money will go towards job creation, economic regeneration and transport improvements.

The five separate grants, covering the period until 1991, have been made under a partnership associating the commission, the British government and local authorities: day-to-day decisions on the various programmes will be made at local level.

The largest grant, about £10.9 million, is for economic regeneration in Humberside. It will cover the areas of Hull and Grimsby and will help to improve tourist attractions, construct roads, provide training facilities at local colleges, pay for environmental and coastal protection and operate an enterprise centre in Grimsby. The money is additional to, not a substitute for, government spending, and central and local authorities will provide £18 million, with a further £5.75 from the private sector.

Other grants include £9.2 million for job creation and infrastructure improvement in the Wakefield, Dewsbury and Castleford areas; £9.8 million for similar schemes in Fife; £8.1 million for Falkirk and Alloa, including new industrial sites and the reclamation of derelict marshalling yards; and £6.35 million for Tayside to help small businesses, tourism and vocational training.

The grants have been made despite vigorous British complaints of Brussels bureaucracy and Britain's refusal of an offer of European funds to help construct the high-speed rail link to the Channel tunnel.

Britain is entitled to EC structural funds to help delaying industrial regions and areas of special need. Northern Ireland receives money under the top priority "objective one" schemes for the poorest regions of the community.

Mr Millan, a former Labour Scottish secretary, has fought a long battle with the government over the use of EC funds.

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Police deny using undue force in acid house raid

By PETER DAVENPORT

WEST Yorkshire police yesterday defended the arrests of more than 800 young people at an acid house party, rejecting accusations that they had used excessive force, and said they would stop future events.

Denis O'Toole, assistant chief constable in charge of operations, denied that the force was acting as a kill-joy and said that police were seriously concerned that the drugs were freely available at the illegal parties and that those parties were held with little regard for safety.

"We will continue to do what we can to prevent these events occurring, and where they do occur we will take strong action against the organisers," he said. "Our concern is for the safety of

these people. We have had a number of major disasters up and down the country caused by overcrowding and crowd control and events of this nature are always likely to generate serious incidents such as crushing."

Mr O'Toole accused the organisers of acid house parties of exploiting young people and exposing them to danger by holding events in unsuitable buildings where there was danger from fire and overcrowding.

Some 200 police were involved in breaking up the party at a disused warehouse at Gildersome, near Leeds, early on Sunday morning. About 30 officers were issued with protective equipment when they came under a hail of missiles, including bricks and broken furniture, as they attempted to force their way into the building. Entrances were barricaded and a van had been used to block doors.

Chief Supt John Ellis, the officer in charge of the operation, said yesterday that drugs with a street value of £2,500 had been recovered. They included crack, LSD, cannabis and amphetamines. The substances recovered were only a portion of the drugs that police believe were at the party.

He rejected claims that police had used excessive and indiscriminate force to break up the event. By yesterday morning, police had received only one official complaint from someone who had been at the party. Mr Ellis said that his men were met by "extreme violence" from some of those in the warehouse who also damaged the building. Three officers needed hospital treatment and the most seriously hurt officer required stitches to his jaw after being hit by a plank.

A further 1,000 young people heading for the warehouse were prevented from reaching it by a police operation which involved blocking roads.

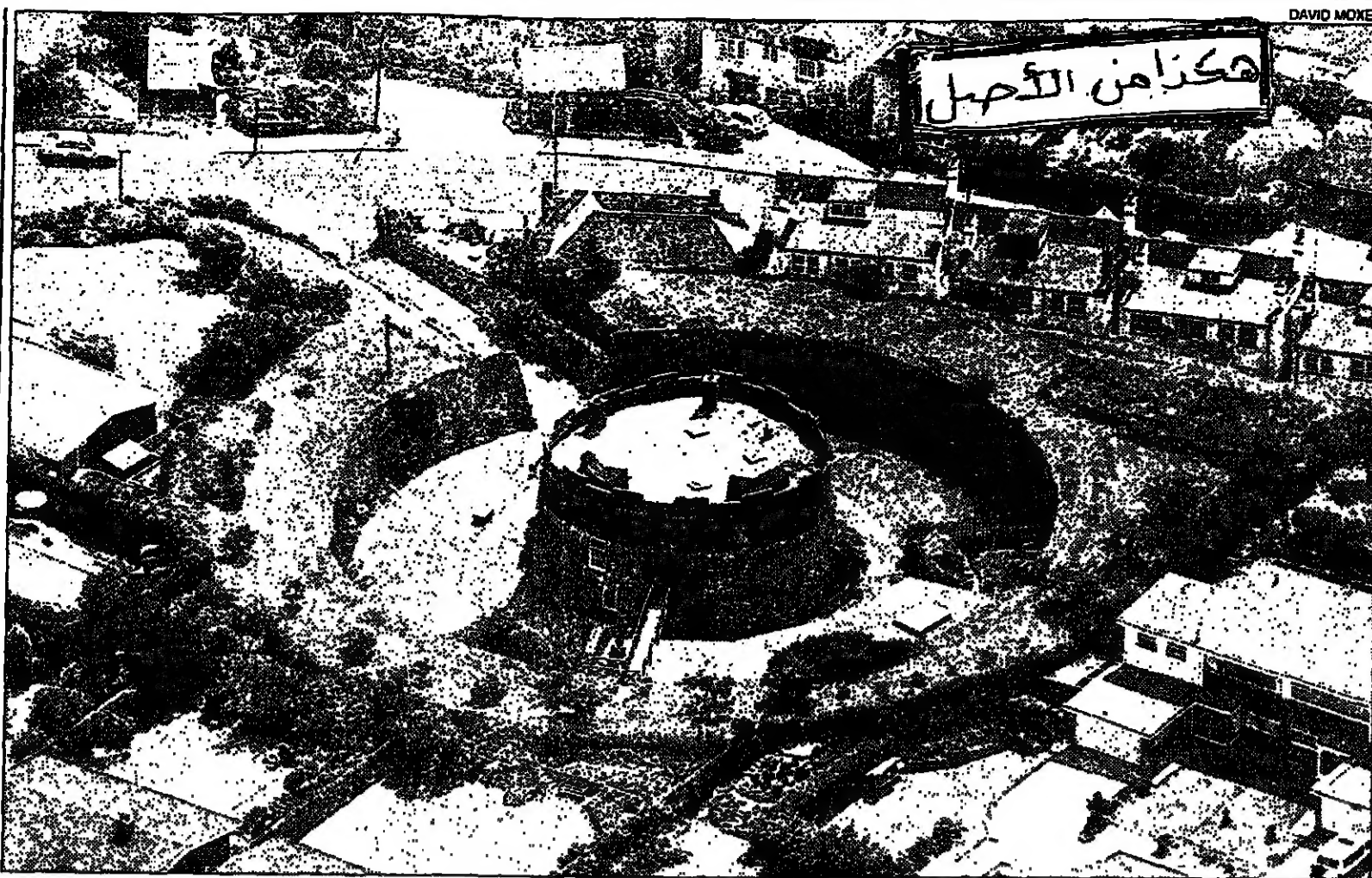
By yesterday, the 836 people arrested had been released pending investigations by a team of 20 detectives who have begun sifting evidence to decide what charges will be brought. The investigation will concentrate on bringing the organisers before the courts. Yesterday, police said they knew their identities, although they did not come from the West Yorkshire area.

Mr O'Toole admitted that conditions in the cells at the 30 police stations where those arrested had been held, were overcrowded, but he insisted that the correct arrest and interview procedures had been followed in each case.

According to police figures, 84 per cent of the people at the warehouse came from outside West Yorkshire: 527 from Lancashire, 40 from Greater Manchester, 23 from Merseyside, 55 from North Yorkshire, 14 from Scotland with 48 others from elsewhere, including one from Italy. Children as young as 14 were found although the majority of those arrested were aged between 17 and 25 years.

The spread was an indication of the elaborate network used by organisers to try to evade police detection. The £6 tickets did not specify the time or location of the event, merely the date. Party-goers had to make a series of telephone calls to learn of the venue. Police had tip-offs that a big acid house party was to be held in the area, but Mr O'Toole refused to comment on claims that officers had infiltrated the party.

As a result of public and police concern about acid house parties, legislation was introduced this month. This provides for fines of up to £20,000 or six months' imprisonment for organisers, who can have profits above £10,000 confiscated.



A tower, with moat and drawbridge, built to defend Britain from invasion by Napoleon is for sale at Felixstowe, Suffolk (Christopher Warman writes). The Martello tower on Balls Cliff overlooking the Orwell estuary is now a four bedroom house, with the dry moat providing a secluded garden and apple trees on the moat walls, one minute from the sea and surrounded by a modern housing estate. The grade II listed building, one of 29 Martello towers built on the southeast coast, was used in the second world war as an anti-aircraft and shipping lookout post, and converted into a home in 1948. Frank Gledhill and his wife Mary-ann have owned the tower, which has a large living room and dining room and walls 8-15ft thick, for seven years. They replaced the old drawbridge and for five years have run it as a tea room and Martello tower exhibition.

Mrs Gledhill said yesterday that it made a wonderful home. "We are only one minute from the seafront and three minutes from the town centre, but once in the house or the garden we could be miles from anywhere. One of the benefits is that it is

beautifully cool in the hot weather we have been having, and warm in winter because the thickness of the walls enables it to keep its heat." The one difficulty encountered in living in this eccentric house, "if you can call it a difficulty," Mrs Gledhill said, "is to find the right furniture to fit the circular walls. The previous owner was an antique dealer, and he found just the right furniture." The house, with planning permission to raise the roof to its original height, is for sale through Abbotts of Ipswich for £285,000.

Patient killed 'by doctor's mistake'

A WOMAN in hospital for a minor operation died from heart failure as the result of the "extreme and grave negligence" of an anaesthetist, a court was told yesterday.

Brenda Jones, aged 55, died after entering Doncaster Royal Infirmary, South Yorkshire, in June 1988 for a minor exploratory operation after difficulty in swallowing. Leeds Crown Court was told.

Brian Walsh, QC, for the prosecution, said that she was attended by the anaesthetist Norman Sargent, then aged 66, who was on a one-month locum spell at the hospital.

Mr Walsh said Dr Sargent owed his patient a duty to take care in the way he looked after her. "But sadly, so extremely negligently did he perform his duties, that instead of keeping her breathing while she remained unconscious, he caused so much oxygen to enter her body that she inflated and literally blew up, so that, at one stage, she was described as resembling the Michelin Man from the tyre adverts," Mr Walsh said.

Mrs Jones, of Conisbrough, near Doncaster, had suffered a phenomenon known as the Barrow Trauma, which happened if a patient given oxygen was unable to exhale it, and it built up in the lungs. That caused them to burst and oxygen rapidly spread throughout the body. The heart became starved of oxygen, the flow of blood to it was reduced, and heart failure occurred.

Mr Walsh said that Dr Sargent had prepared a tube to insert into the patient's throat. That would normally be used with a breathing machine but the anaesthetist had decided to use it with a system of gas injection.

"This was a most unusual thing for a consultant anaesthetist to do. His assistant had only seen the combination used once in 22 years," Mr Walsh said.

"That decision was a very dangerous, extremely negligent one because it connected Mrs Jones to a very high pressure oxygen cylinder which is difficult, even with great skill, to regulate as to the amount of gas going in."

Dr Sargent had not checked with his stethoscope whether Mrs Jones was breathing after injecting her with a paralysing drug, and had continued to ventilate the patient after being told by the surgeon and a nurse of signs of distress.

Dr Sargent, now retired, of Bicester, Oxfordshire, denies manslaughter. The trial continues today.

Americans may pay reward to Customs

By STEWART TENDLER CRIME CORRESPONDENT

AMERICAN federal investigators are planning to give British Customs a \$2.5 million (£1.4 million) reward for work by London officers during the transatlantic enquiry into money-laundering by the Bank of Credit and Commerce International (BCCI) group, it was disclosed yesterday.

If the reward is paid, it will be the first time such funds will have been made available and it will set an important precedent. Such operations can be very expensive, sometimes leaving investigators with large bills but no convictions in their own country.

Customs sources said yesterday that no formal offer had been made but that the American authorities had said informally that they intended to pay the money. At one stage, it was hoped that the news might be announced by President Bush during the Nato summit in London or the G7 economic summit in Houston, Texas, but customs officials are still waiting.

Earlier this year, BCCI (Overseas), based in the Cayman Islands, West Indies, pleaded guilty in the United States to two counts of laundering profits from cocaine trafficking. The bank, part of a group rated the seventh largest private bank in the world, agreed to forfeit \$15 million after an investigation codenamed Operation C-Chase by the Americans.

During the enquiry, customs officers raided BCCI's headquarters in Leadenhall Street, London, and Capcom Financial Services, part of BCCI, BCCI executives in the United States still face trial and two BCCI officials are due in court in London in December accused of money-laundering offences under drug trafficking laws. The reward is not linked to the outcome of these trials.

The American legal system lets federal authorities reward police and other agencies for help in catching suspects. In the United States, funds taken from drug traffickers have helped to pay for fleets of cars, and even a prison. The Drug Enforcement Agency is now self-funding because of assets seized by the courts.

C-Chase was codenamed after the slang for a \$100 "C note", the main bill of currency accepted by launderers. The operation led to the arrest of General Manuel Noriega, now awaiting trial in the United States accused of links with money-laundering and of aiding Colombian drug gangs.

IBA denies bias in religious advertising questionnaire

By JOHN LEWIS

LEADING politicians are urging the Independent Broadcasting Authority to withdraw what they regard as slanted questions in a survey of the views of religious groups on religious advertising.

Such advertisements are to be allowed for the first time on commercial channels in Britain as a result of changes in the broadcasting bill now going through its committee stage in the Lords. The Conservative MP Michael Allison, a former minister and aide to Mrs Thatcher, and Lord On-Edwards, have written to George Russell, the authority's chairman, accusing the IBA of bias in the questions and of failing to invite the views of many evangelical organisations.

The two politicians say in their letter that they are particularly unhappy that questions envisage the possibility of a ban on religious advertising when the government and parliament have ruled that it should be allowed. They also complain that the questions seek objections to types of advertising and suggest eight items which might not be allowed. No opportunity is given for positive and constructive comments, they claim.

In a separate criticism, the politicians say that such cults as the Scientologists, Moonies and Spiritualists have been invited to comment, but not most Anglican diocesan communications officers or even the Archbishop of Canterbury. The Evangelical Alliance, representing a million evangelical Christians, was excluded until it protested.



Allison: wants "slanted" questions withdrawn

The questions objected to include: "Should religious advertising be permitted on TV?" "A number of options are listed: "All TV channels?" "Satellite and cable television only?" and "Only satellite and cable channels owned by religious organisations?"

Another question asks: "If religious advertising is allowed, are there any categories of religious organisations you consider should not be allowed to advertise?"

In his reply rejecting the criticism, Mr Russell says that the IBA thought it right to give respondents to the questionnaire the chance of indicating whether they favoured an advertising ban. The bulk of the questionnaire was, however, based on the assumption that there would be religious advertising. He says that in drawing up advertising rules one is more likely to ask what should not be allowed than what should be.

Mr Russell denies that anyone was deliberately excluded, saying it would have been impossible to address individually every religious community or congregation in the country. The complaint is another sign of the underlying irritation felt by some evangelical churchmen that obstacles are being put in the way of advertising and of the churches owning non-domestic satellite television and local radio stations.

However, while broadcasting is breaking new ground in one sphere, less advances appear to have been made in another, that of the role of women in broadcasting. Seventy per cent of all broadcasting employees in the 12 member states of the European Community are men, while 60 per cent of the women who work in radio and television do so as secretaries and clerical assistants, the EC's steering committee for equal opportunities in broadcasting has found (Melinda Wittstock writes).

Women comprise just 7 per cent of the members of top policy-making committees, while the average man is six times as likely as the average woman to find his way into the senior echelons of broadcasting management. Only 8 per cent of senior production staff in television and 10 per cent in radio are women. Although women account for

Pollution control agency planned

By KERRY GILL

THE Scottish National Party yesterday published its proposal for an independent protection agency as part of a package of environmental measures to be discussed at the party conference in September.

The agency would be responsible to a Scottish parliament and would have powers to set and enforce controls on pollution of land, sea and air. It would be able to control the use and disposal of toxic substances and to ban the import of nuclear waste.

The party is campaigning to halt nuclear dump test boring in the north of Scotland which, it claims, will destroy public confidence in fish and agriculture produce and end the local tourist industry. Roger Mullin, the nationalists' environment spokesman, said the party would fight the

threat of Scotland being thrust into the dustbin of western Europe and promised strict controls on the use of all dangerous substances and a ban on a variety of toxic materials.

Among proposals in the party's policy document is the setting up of an environment department in a Scottish government able to represent the country in European and international projects aimed at protecting the environment. The department would have powers to call in all planning applications to assess their effect on the environment and every application would have to be accompanied by an "impact statement".

The nationalists would also appoint an environmental ombudsman with powers to deal with complaints over green issues.

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Children wary of eating healthily

By ROBIN YOUNG

CHILDREN choose chips, hamburgers and sponge puddings as favourite school dinners even though they know that they are less good for them than other foods, the contract caterers Gardner Merchant said yesterday.

According to a survey commissioned by the company, fewer than one in eight children said they knew what to eat. Though almost all the children questioned rated plain mixed salads as healthy food, fewer than a quarter included salad among their favourite meals. Only one in fifty mentioned fresh fruit as a favourite dessert.

Children in the survey, all from secondary schools,

showed some confusion about healthy eating. More than a third said full cream milk was unhealthy, but over a quarter did not know whether it was healthy or not. More than a quarter thought ice cream good for health, and more than two-fifths rated fizzy drinks as healthy.

Chips were named by 59 per cent of children as one of their favourite main course foods. Runners up were pizza and hamburgers, though salads did finish as second favourite overall among girls.

Nearly two-thirds of children in the North-east said they ate chips three or more times a week, twice the proportion in the South-east. More than three-quarters of the schools covered in the survey were

found to serve chips five times a week. Foreign foods were also well established in children's diets, with three-quarters of the schools serving pizza and almost as many offering curry. Lasagne and pasta were served in more than half and chilli con carne in nearly a quarter.

Salads were twice as popular in the South-east compared to the national average. Sponge puddings were chosen by almost half the children as one of their top three desserts, closely followed by ice cream, cakes and buns. Yoghurts were nearly two times more popular among girls than boys.

Almost half the children in the survey ate school meals, though the proportion almost

reached two-thirds in the South-west and Wales, which was also the region where the highest proportion (39 per cent) took packed lunches to school. Of those who did not eat school meals, two-fifths said that they or their mothers preferred them to have packed lunches. Another fifth said they did not eat school meals because they were poor in quality or taste.

The research was conducted by Carrick James Market Research, which interviewed 421 children between the ages of 11 and 16 chosen on a random basis to reflect the national average.

Gardner Merchant School Meals Survey 1990 (Gardner Merchant Ltd, 166 High Holborn, London WC1V 6TT, free)

Labour onslaught on MacGregor's teacher pay plans

THE government's proposals for teachers' pay negotiating machinery were attacked by the Opposition in the Commons yesterday when they were announced by John MacGregor, the education secretary.

Jack Straw, chief Opposition spokesman on education, described them as a shallow and damaging trick. He said they would not provide an extra penny for education or guarantee one extra teacher in the classroom.

The proposals showed yet again, he said, that education ministers who had so damaged the education service were incapable of improving it. "It is not just failed education ministers who need to be removed but failed and discredited policies which must be abandoned forthwith."

The removal of teachers' negotiating rights in 1986, and

EDUCATION

the continued delay in re-establishing them, had damaged teachers' motivation and self-respect. That was why schools faced greater problems now than at any time in living memory.

Mr MacGregor was retaining veto powers. The proposal to allow individual authorities and grant-maintained schools to opt out of national pay machinery would be seen as an attempt by him to appease his critics on the Tory right and a "cheap dodge" to avoid his responsibility for the nationwide teacher shortage.

Teacher shortages had risen by half in two years mainly because teachers' pay had dropped so far behind that of comparable groups. Would Mr MacGregor back with cash local authorities that set their own salary scales?

Mr MacGregor rejected all Mr Straw's charges. On his override powers, he would consider all the negotiating body's recommendations on merit. He might also use the powers on matters such as professional duties and the pay structure, and possibly where there was disagreement about the pay of heads and deputy heads.

On opting out, there were some serious teacher shortages, particularly in some London boroughs, and he had adopted a whole range of measures to try to help local authorities to deal with them. He was applying local flexibility, which had been achieved in the past three years or so, and the new proposals for opting out were a natural extension of that process.

It was "rich" for Mr Straw to press for additional resources because Mr Straw had always avoided that question. Cash limits must be one possibility available to the education secretary for any interim advisory committee recommendations.

Responding to James Pawsey (Rugby and Kenilworth, C), who welcomed the proposals, Mr MacGregor said that the government would be legislating for some time to come to provide for the possibility of evolution.

Peter Shore (Bethnal Green and Stepney, Lab) cited a teacher vacancy rate of more than 10 per cent in the London borough of Tower Hamlets. How would Mr MacGregor prevent that which could easily degenerate throughout inner London into a competitive scramble for scarce teachers?

Mr MacGregor said that opting out would build on flexibility already in the system. Education supplements were available to boroughs such as Tower Hamlets.

Patrick Thompson (Norwich North, C) welcomed the fact that Mr MacGregor had not been tempted towards the old and discredited system of Burnham. It must be right to move pay bargaining closer to schools.

Mr MacGregor replied that the proposals were an advance on the discredited Burnham schemes. There would be a timetable for negotiations and no possibility of deadlock, both matters that had been problems in the past.

Matthew Taylor, Liberal Democrat spokesman on education, said that the plan to

opt out would create a wage war between rich, attractive local authorities and poor, less attractive ones.

Yet it was the poor and less attractive authorities that had the teacher shortages. He feared that the proposals would "ratchet up" teacher shortages.

He asked if grant-maintained schools would have to approach the education secretary if they wished opt out.

Mr MacGregor said that the poor authorities received a much higher allowance per pupil. The allowance per primary pupil in the London borough of Hackney was about 70 per cent more than the allowance in Somerset.

Grant-maintained schools could apply to him for opting out, "and they will get it automatically".

Harriet Harman (Peckham, Lab) said that the worst teacher shortages were in the poorest areas that were least able to opt out and pay their teachers more.

She predicted that London boroughs such as Lambeth and Southwark would have their teachers syphoned off to Bromley, Surrey and Westminster. "This is a con trick which is going to make the situation in London far worse", she said.

Diane Abbott (Hackney North and Stoke Newington, Lab) described the proposals as a cruel fraud on teachers and parents in Hackney where the teacher vacancy level was 12.5 per cent, the second highest in the country. When would Mr MacGregor do something to stop the blight of a whole generation of children in east London?

Tony Banks (Newham North-West, Lab) said that the scheme was a heartless fraud, in suggesting that Newham, Hackney and Tower Hamlets, three of the poorest London boroughs, were able to deal with the problem when they did not have the resources.

Mr MacGregor said that there was an interesting disparity in London where not all the factors were educational.

Peter Hardy (Wentworth, Lab) said that the corrupt nature of the distribution of central funding for education had been demonstrated and there was concern that that corrupt system might continue with the new system.

The crisis of morale among teachers was now worse than ever.

Mr MacGregor: "To describe the system as corrupt is ludicrous".

He had found that teachers were getting to grips with the national curriculum and were excited and becoming positive about it.

Derek Fatchett, an Opposition spokesman on education, said that no additional resources were being made available. All that was happening was redeployment of resources from poorer to richer authorities. That would move teachers to the richer authorities because the government did not care about the children of Lambeth and Hackney.

Mr MacGregor said that he had made the point that extra resources went to poorer boroughs because of their additional educational needs.

Rifkind announces woodland grants

GRANTS are to be made available to promote the better management of woodlands, Malcolm Rifkind, Scottish secretary, said in a Commons written reply.

The grants are part of a package of measures arising from a review of the government's policy for broadleaf woodland.

The grants are to be available to the owners of broadleaf and conifer woodland who agree to a management plan with the Forestry Commission aimed at improving the management and increasing the environmental value of woodlands. The amounts will be £10 a hectare for conifers and £25 for broadleaf. Other grants will also be available.

The government's policy was set out in 1985 with the objective of maintaining and enhancing the value of Britain's broadleaf woodland "for timber production, landscape, recreation and nature conservation". It was stated at the time that

the policy would be reviewed and that was put in hand in October 1988. It became clear that the policy had had considerable success in extending the area of broadleaves throughout the country.

Although many bodies consulted suggested that there should be more grants for broadleaf planting, the government had concluded that no new planting grants were needed.

The review showed, however, that it was necessary to encourage good multi-purpose management and that involved higher costs, particularly for managing ancient semi-natural woodlands.

To qualify for the new grants, woodland owners will be required to agree with the Forestry Commission a five-year plan of operations that will set out the management objectives for the woodland and prescribe operations that will advance those objectives during the period of the plan.

ities, one Briton and one Italian speak Serbo-Croatian, a French woman speaks Coptic, and a German speaks Galician.

Of Britain's two European Commissioners, Sir Leon Brittan is listed as speaking only English and Bruce Millan speaks French as well. The Commission president, Jacques Delors, lists only French.

Sir Christopher Prout, leader of the Conservative MEPs, speaks French and Spanish. Glyn Ford, leader of the British Labour group, speaks only English.

As well as the potted biographies of politicians and civil servants attached to the commission, the parliament, the court of justice, the European investment bank and the court of auditors, the book contains a guide to the institutions of the EC and a summary of the European legislative process.

Dod's European Companion (Subscription Dept, Hurst Green, East Sussex, TN19 9PX; £97.50).



RICHARD Douglas (above), Independent Labour MP for Dunfermline West, was suspended for five working days after being "named" by the Speaker, Bernard Weatherill. Mr Douglas had tried to raise a point of order with the Speaker as John MacGregor was about to make his statement on teachers' pay. The Speaker repeatedly told him to resume his seat. When Mr Douglas made no move to do so, he was named and MPs voted by 177 votes to 25 to suspend him. Mr Douglas will not be allowed into the Commons until after the summer recess.

Welsh councils should be able to cut poll tax by £4 next year, Hunt says

THE government said that the community charge in Wales next financial year ought to be £228, a reduction of £4 on this year's actual average charge, David Hunt, Welsh secretary, announced in a Commons statement. He promised vigorous use of his charge-capping powers against any excessive local authority spending to protect chargepayers.

He would set a level of total standard spending of £2,436 million, or £16 million, or 8 per cent, more than the equivalent figure for this financial year. His proposals would increase central government support for spending by £200 million, or 11.2 per cent.

The secretary of state also announced changes in operation of the standard community charge applied to second homes, and to the rates for small businesses in Wales.

Labour responded to Mr Hunt's statement by saying that the package would not be sufficient to meet local authority costs.

Mr Hunt said that he would set the level of Exchequer grants, known as aggregate external finance (AEF) at £1,939 million, 11.2 per cent higher than last year.

"This is a very substantial increase, and I urge councils to recognize that and to pass on the benefits of this injection of funding to their chargepayers, instead of seeking to boost spending still further."

He would announce details of

LOCAL FINANCE

the three components of AEF, revenue support grant, distributable amount of national non-domestic rates and specified grants to current expenditure, in the autumn.

If the community charge of £228, achievable under his proposals, was to be the average actual charge in Wales for 1991-2, councils would have to budget responsibly and spend in line with plans.

"I believe chargepayers will expect them to do so and will quickly realize that if there is a higher average level of charges, that will be directly attributable to overspending by their local authorities."

He hoped that protection from unnecessarily high spending and charges would be unnecessary, but he was fully prepared to protect chargepayers by making vigorous use of his charge-capping powers. Next year those would be applied to excessive spending in relation to standard spending assessments (SSAs) and to excessive year-on-year increases in spending by those authorities spending above their SSA for 1991-2.

He promised to give an advance indication of the criteria he would use in making decisions about charge capping, so that authorities were aware of them when making budget decisions.

He would reduce the maximum standard charge for some

exceptional cases: those required as a condition of employment to live in a property; those houses with an empty "granny flat" and those whose house was empty because they had gone to care for someone. To help those having difficulty in selling property, he was extending the period during which a zero charge must be levied. All those proposals would operate from next April.

For those who lived "over the shop" in small businesses, the transitional arrangements would be amended to limit increases in business rate for next financial year to 10 per cent in real terms, instead of the present 15 per cent.

The bed-and-breakfast rule exempting accommodation made available for fewer than 100 days a year would go in favour of new arrangements based on the amount of accommodation available.

The transitional relief for community charge which had helped about 750,000 chargepayers this year with reductions of up to £33 each, would continue next year, with phasing out postponed. The sum available for the relief would remain at £20 million for 1991-2 and for the next year, and the scheme would be extended to 1994-5. In all other respects, transitional relief would remain unchanged.

Barry Jones, Labour's spokesman on Wales, said that any increase in grant to local authorities in Wales was welcome because Wales had suffered greatly from the poll tax.

The attack made by the Secretary of State on local authorities was unworthy. The councils had warned the government and the Welsh Office as to get the poll tax in place in Wales.

With inflation running at 10 per cent and local spending higher than inflation, the package would be insufficient to meet costs. How were councils, in particular, to meet settlements for teachers, learners, manual workers, the police and the fire services?

Hong Kong bill gets its third reading

THE British Nationality (Hong Kong) Bill, to allow 50,000 Hong Kong heads of household to register as British citizens before June 1997, passed its third reading in the House of Lords unopposed.

An attempt by Lord Bonham-Carter (Lib Dem), to increase the numbers allowed to claim British citizenship if thought by the Governor of Hong Kong to be necessary to maintain stability, was rejected by 138

votes to 27 — government majority, 111. The Labour party abstained.

Lord Bonham-Carter, moving the amendment, asked how the government could believe 50,000 was the right figure.

"In any case, what is right today may not be right tomorrow and there is no reason to suppose that there will be no change in Hong Kong or China between now and 1997, either for better or worse. All the

amendment is suggesting is that a little flexibility in the legislation would be nothing less than prudent."

Earl Ferrers, Minister of State, Home Office, said the government had settled on the figure of 50,000 as likely to have a real impact on confidence in Hong Kong. Removal of that figure would cause widespread concern and support for the bill would be likely to deteriorate.

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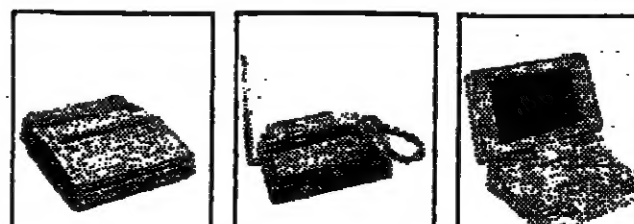
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THE COMPLETE COMMUNICATIONS PACKAGE

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English rules at the EC

By ROBIN OAKLEY
POLITICAL EDITOR

ENGLISH is spoken by more European Community officials and members of the European parliament than any other language, according to a guide to the personalities and institutions of the EC.

An analysis of 1,258 entries in *Dod's European Companion*, published to-morrow, shows that 908 of the parliamentarians and officials speak English. In second place is French, which is spoken by 893 of them. After that come German (394), Italian (275), Spanish (224), Dutch (152), Portuguese (82), Greek (65), and Danish (63).

Other languages spoken include Russian (15) and Catalan (11). Only two of those listed speak Japanese.

Perhaps because of the number from other countries who speak French and English, the English and French representatives in Europe tend to speak fewer languages than those from other EC nations. The 235 Brit-



Bruce Millan

ons in the survey have a grand total of 247 other languages between them. The 192 French, however, have 290 other languages and the Dutch come out as the best linguists with their 66 people speaking a total of 125 other languages. Among the rar-

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Kohl seeks extra power from united German election

From IAN MURRAY IN BONN

HELMUT Kohl, the West German chancellor, having masterminded German unity, now aims to win an overall majority for his Christian Democrats in the first pan-German elections in December. This would enable him to abandon the liberal compromises to party policy forced by coalition politics, and allow him to dump the country's long-serving foreign minister, Hans Dietrich Genscher, with whom he has become increasingly irritated.

Herr Genscher is a member of the tiny Free Democratic party, which has managed to stay in government for all but two years since 1949 by swapping sides between the Christian Democrats (CDU) and the opposition Social Democrats (SPD).

Because of West Germany's proportional electoral system, neither of the main parties has been able to command an

overall majority, and has always needed to form a coalition with the Free Democrats to form a government. Herr Genscher has thus been a cabinet member since 1969, and foreign minister for the past 16 years. This has given the country continuity of foreign policy, but Herr Genscher has developed a seniority and independence which close sources say Herr Kohl suspects and resents.

This has become obvious through a series of rows between them on the way to reunification. Herr Genscher, for example, was furious with the chancellor's reluctance to make a clear statement confirming the present Polish border. Herr Kohl gave way on this issue, but later repudiated what he saw as his foreign minister's too-ready acceptance of limited sovereignty for a united Germany.

Since the question of rela-

tions between the two German states comes under his authority, the chancellor has used his own men - Rudolf Seiters, the chancellery minister, and Horst Teltschik, director of his private office - to negotiate and plan the route to unification. This has often overlapped Herr Genscher's responsibility for masterminding foreign policy.

After his successful trip to the Soviet Union last week, when he persuaded President Gorbachev to accept full sovereignty for a united Germany, the chancellor is riding high. The mass circulation daily *Bild* has made him a heroic figure, starting a series today on "the new Kohl", explaining how the man nicknamed "the pear" because of his shape has now become a world political heavyweight.

His confidence that he can form the first democratically elected post-war majority German government has been increased by the *Wickert* Institute's weekly poll, which shows that his fellow countrymen consider him to be the best chancellor since the institute started "marking" national leaders in 1951. Asked what school grade they would award him, the average given by 3,397 West Germans and 1,478 East Germans was 1.7. German school marks range from a top grade of 1 to a bottom grade of 6, with anything under 2 regarded as excellent. Only a year ago the chancellor was rated at 4.2, which is scarcely a pass.

The poll also shows that 58.4 per cent support him as chancellor, more than 5 per cent up in a week, while his SPD rival, Oskar Lafontaine, is trailing with just 31 per cent. This is 6 per cent less than the SPD candidate scored a week earlier and more than 20 per cent down on Herr Lafontaine's rating a month ago, when Herr Kohl was well behind.

The chancellor's commanding lead has not yet totally transferred to his party, although the CDU and its Bavarian sister party, the Christian Social Union, now has 45.6 per cent compared with 44.2 per cent last week, while the SPD has dropped from 38.4 per cent to 37.5 per cent. The Free Democrats, with 9.6 per cent, still hold the balance of power, but are increasingly worried that the chancellor is seeking to exploit his popularity in East Germany to take an overall majority in the first pan-German polls on December 2.

This fear led Count Otto Lambsdorff, the Free Democrats' leader, to accuse Herr Kohl of dictating tactics to the CDU in the East, because it wants reunification to take place after the election, giving a better chance to small right-wing parties in the East, which would probably fail to muster the 5 per cent of votes needed to win seats under the West German electoral system, which would be used after unification.



ALEXANDER Dubcek, Speaker of the Czechoslovak parliament, meeting Douglas Hurd, the foreign secretary, during his visit to Prague yesterday. Mr Hurd said Britain was optimistic that changes in Europe, including German unification, would provide new security and

stability for the continent (center reports from Prague). "Events are moving forward... in the general direction that Czechoslovakia and Britain have favored in recent months," he said after talks with President Vaclav Havel and other Czechoslovak leaders. "The new

Germany will be embedded in the heart of Europe as a member of the European Community, of Nato, of the Council of Europe and as one of the most important members of the new system of the CSCE (Conference on Security and Co-operation in Europe)."

Cossiga demands inquiry into Palme murder 'P2-CIA link'

From RICHARD BASSETT IN ROME

PRESIDENT Cossiga has ordered the Italian government to investigate the allegation that the CIA and the infamous P2 masonic lodge conspired to assassinate Olof Palme, the former Swedish prime minister.

In a letter dated July 3, Signor Cossiga expressed his "grave disquiet" over the allegations which appeared in a series of Italian television interviews with supposedly former members of the CIA. The interviews claimed that P2 had co-operated with the CIA in arranging Mr Palme's death, and in organising terrorism on Italian soil in the 1970s. "If these allegations are true, then a full legal investigation must follow," the president said in a letter to his fellow Christian Democrat, Giulio Andreotti, the prime minister. "If the allegations are untrue and this is 'creative journalism', then the situation is no less serious and the courts must intervene."

The four television interviews, which took place between June 28 and July 2, raised "grave issues of credibility", the president said.

In the first programme, someone described simply as "Agent Zero" described how Palme had been caught in a deal between the CIA and Iran to release American hostages in Tehran. "Palme was a fly in the ointment so we got P2 to rub him out," the agent said.

The second programme, which showed the agent's silhouette of "Agent Zero One", alleged that P2 was not wound up in the mid-1980s after the arrest of its leader, Licio Gelli. "It still exists. It calls itself P7," he said. According to the agent, the lodge is still functioning with branches in Austria, Switzerland and West Germany.

"Zero One" has now been revealed by the Italian press to be Dick Brenneke, allegedly a career CIA officer. His cover has been so well constructed that even the intelligence agency claims it has not heard of him.

In recent weeks there has been growing pressure in Italy to discover the causes of terrorist acts, such as the Bologna bombing, and the so-called "Ustica" incident, both of which took place 10 years ago and remain unsolved. In both of them, the Italian security services have been allegedly involved, according to the Italian press. But to Signor Gelli, the disgraced former P2 leader who was

acquainted at last week's Bologna bombing appeal court trial, the latest allegations have only one answer. He is suing Italian television for £5 million damages.

The so-called "Ustica" affair took place in 1980 when a DC9 appeared to be intercepted by a missile not far from the military base on the Italian island of Ustica.

All the passengers and crew were killed. Exhaustive searches failed to reveal any clue to the cause of the crash. The incident, which has never been satisfactorily explained, was alleged at the time to have been the result of a bungled attempt to shoot down a plane flying nearby the same day

carrying Colonel Gaddafi, the Libyan leader.

President Cossiga said recently that the Ustica affair merited official investigation. Well-informed sources here, however, point to the difficulty of any conclusive investigations given the alleged role of the Italian security services in the incident.

Signor Cossiga recently told relatives of the Ustica affair's victims, "I shall do all that is humanly possible to clear this up."

Both the Ustica affair and the Bologna bombing occurred in 1980. The incidents, however, are only two of many terrorist actions still shrouded in mystery.

St-Tropez orders cover-up

From PHILIP JACOBSON IN PARIS

PRUDISHNESS and the beaches of St-Tropez will not be inextricably linked in many minds, what with recollections of the prime of Brigitte Bardot and bikinis that would fit into a matchbox with room to spare. But the French can be funny about matters of morality, sometimes behaving even more perplexingly than the British, and the mayor of the Côte d'Azur's most glitzy resort evidently has strong feelings about full-frontal nudity in public places.

So strong, in fact, that Alain Spada has decided to chase nudists from all municipal beaches for reasons of "security, hygiene, respect for public standards and the liberty of others". On his orders, the police went out in force last weekend, scanning the sands for glimpses of forbidden flesh, notebooks at the

ready, poised to hand out fines of up to 75 francs (£7.50).

According to M Spada, the objective of his campaign is to "restore the family feeling of our beaches". The appropriate by-laws already exist, he noted, so it is simply a question of authorising the police to take action. If offenders are unimpressed by the force of local regulations, the French penal code has an offence of "public outrage to modesty" with a penalty of up to 1,500 francs (£150).

On past form, M Spada's crusade may count upon the enthusiastic support of BB, who has in the past delivered some fearsome blasts to the town hall about the "jewishness, exhibitionism, vice, money and homosexuality" ruining the town she did more than most to put on the map. Seen from the increasingly crotch-

ety living legend's villa-cum-animal sanctuary, St-Tropez clearly represents Sodom-surmer, and she does not hide her belief that the local authorities are responsible.

The last time she spoke out, however, M Spada was ready and waiting: "It's true that St-Tropez is dying, but who was responsible for bringing vice and immorality here in the first place?" Still, one senses that the mayor's troubles with nudity are only just beginning.

A few dozen protesters have already invited prosecution by shedding all in the noble cause on Sunday, and plans for "commando actions" during the peak holiday period are being considered.

"If St-Tropez bans us, I'll be off like a shot to Ramatuelle just down the road," one indignant and naked holiday-maker declared.

Blank at bank on Ukraine treasure

By ANDREW MCEWEN
DIPLOMATIC EDITOR

THE mystery of a barrel of gold supposedly deposited with the Bank of England 267 years ago by a Ukrainian military leader deepened yesterday when officials searched the vaults and found only dust and cobwebs.

The search followed demands by deputies in the Ukrainian parliament that Kiev should reclaim the gold with up to £16,000 billion in interest, a figure which prompted raised eyebrows at the bank.

A check of items left on deposit also drew a blank. Had it succeeded, the bank would have charged the Ukraine for 267 years of storage fees but would have paid no interest on the ground that bullion is not the same as money left in an interest-bearing account.

In 1723, when the gold would have been deposited, the bank was a chartered corporation with private shareholders. It did not become a state institution until 1946. But its records go back 294 years, and a full search is to be made to establish whether there was ever such a deposit. The files are not as dusty as might be supposed, because the bank regularly receives letters from people claiming that ancestors left money there. "Most of them are from Americans, and once in a while they turn out to be right," said an official.

Generations of people of Ukrainian descent living in Britain have been brought up to believe that Colonel Pavel Polubotok, an 18th-century "hetman" (military leader), left a hoard in the bank's care before travelling to St Petersburg to deliver a petition to Tsar Peter the Great. He asked the tsar to restore the greater autonomy Ukraine had previously enjoyed, but the tsar suspected that his petition did not accurately reflect local wishes. Polubotok died in prison in 1723, historians disagree on whether he should be seen as a Ukrainian patriot or merely a military chief.

Michael Hrushevsky, in his *History of Ukraine*, described him as "a man of great energy and lofty patriotism", but did not mention the gold. George Miller, chairman of the Association for a Free Russia, was sceptical. "A lot of these myths come from the West rather than the Ukraine, and have now been transferred back to the Ukraine," he said. Fedir Kurak, general secretary of the Ukrainian Association in Britain, which has 15,000 members, tried yesterday to trace the origin of the story of the gold. "Everyone seems to regard it as common knowledge, but no one can remember how they knew it," he said. "It's rather like the Robin Hood legend."

One elderly Ukrainian said he had heard that the gold was not deposited with the bank by Polubotok himself, but handed to a British officer, who was to pass it on. Apart from the gold there was also jewellery, he said. Mr Miller argued that it was misleading to see Polubotok as a nationalist, because people living in Ukraine at the time were divided along religious and tribal lines. Ukraine meant borderlands, and it did not gain a sense of national identity until the late 19th century.

Ukraine enjoyed only two years of independence after the first world war before being absorbed into the Soviet Union. Nationalist feelings emerged about three years ago when the banned yellow and blue national flag was waved at rallies. After moves towards independence by the Baltic states, the Ukrainian parliament asserted its sovereignty but has been more cautious than Lithuania. The gold legend was revived by one of the 25 candidates standing in presidential elections next week.

Berlin discord over anthem

From ANNE MCELVOY IN EAST BERLIN

WHEN the East German athletics squad mounted the rostrum at Gatedhead stadium last month on their last trip as a national team to Britain, they enjoyed a freedom banned since the 1950s: they sang the words of their national anthem.

But the stirring Hans Eisler tune *Aufstanden aus Ruinen* (Arise from Ruins), with lyrics by Johannes R. Becher, the poet and first culture minister, looks like disappearing forever when the joint German parliament meets - for the first time after the December elections - to vote on a new anthem, a new name for the country and a new national holiday.

The East German anthem has been played but not sung since the 1950s, because of the *Jine Deutschland einig Vaterland* (Germany one Fatherland). The words disappeared after the failure of Stalin's attempt to unify Germany under guarantees of neutrality. They no longer suited the then Ulbricht government's policy of distancing East Germany from West Germany.

More haunting and wistful than the West German anthem, East Germany's is one of the few accoutrements of the former communist state that many people here would like to retain. It was reintroduced after the fall of the Honecker regime with the Communist party newspaper *Neues Deutschland* printing the words for East Germans to commit to memory again. It is still sung every night on TV when transmission ends.

Lothar de Maiziere, the prime minister, has said its promise "that the sun bright as never before shall shine over Germany" is particularly

suited to the country's emergence from division into unity and democracy. In Bonn, however, they are anxious to make the third verse of the *Deutschland Lied*, which promises "unity, law and freedom" without the embarrassing claims of the first verse to territory "from the Memel to the Maas", the official future anthem.

This is all too much for Herr de Maiziere, who is worried that reunification will mean the annihilation of his country's cultural heritage. He has proposed that the West German tune should be retained, but that the first verse of the East German national anthem should come before the third verse of the West German one. This even fits the Haydn melody, with the odd elision.

A group of West German MPs, headed by Antje Vollmer, a Green, intends to propose that the current lyrics should be replaced by the less pompous *Children's Hymn*, written by Bertolt Brecht in 1949. Peter Petersen, the prominent professor of musicology, is canvassing support for the Brecht lyrics, set instead to the tune of Beethoven's Ninth Symphony.

The anthem is not the only point of discord. Herr de Maiziere has also suggested that the Federal Republic of Germany should be called the German Federal Republic to mark the accession of the German Democratic Republic. East German MPs also want the Day of Unity, celebrated in the West on June 17 to mark the 1953 workers' uprising in the East, to be moved to November 9, the day the border was opened.

Leading article, page 13

Iran allows diplomat to see Cooper

IRAN has allowed a diplomat to see Roger Cooper, the British businessman imprisoned in Tehran in 1985, for the first time in ten months (Andrew McEwen writes). He was visited in Evin prison by a Swedish official representing Britain, which does not have diplomatic relations with Iran.

Mr Cooper, aged 55, a nephew of the poet Robert Graves, was well. His imprisonment remains one of three obstacles to Anglo-Iranian talks on restoring relations, the others being the *fatwa* against Salman Rushdie and Britain's request for Iran to use its influence over groups holding hostages in Beirut.

Rebels advance into Monrovia

MONROVIA - Liberian rebels drove government troops out of their last refuge in the outer suburbs of the Monrovia yesterday and besieged the centre of the capital. Heavy gunfire echoed around the heart of Monrovia's business district. Most shops remained closed.

President Doe has said that he will not leave the capital until the outcome of the war has been decided. (AP)

Soviet hijack attempt foiled

MOSCOW - Security forces foiled an attempt by a student and a bricklayer, both unarmed, to hijack a Soviet airliner to Stockholm yesterday.

The pair threatened to blow up the Tupolev-134 soon after it left Riga for Murmansk but were arrested when the pilot landed near the Finnish border. (Reuters)



Summit smiles: Mr Singh and Mr Gorbachev after signing a co-operation agreement

Singh bolsters Moscow ties

From A CORRESPONDENT IN MOSCOW

THE Indian prime minister, Vishwanath Pratap Singh, arrived in Moscow yesterday for the first Indian-Soviet summit of the Gorbachev reform era.

India is one of Moscow's closest and most powerful partners in the non-aligned bloc, while the Soviet Union is India's second biggest trading partner after the United States and its largest arms supplier.

Yesterday, Mr Singh and Mr Gorbachev signed a joint declaration committing their two countries to building a nuclear-free and non-violent world. During his visit to the Soviet Union in 1985, Rajiv Gandhi, Mr Singh's predecessor, signed agreements on a

one-billion rouble (£880 million) credit package, a 15-year scientific agreement, and a military co-operation agreement that allowed India to build advanced Soviet MiG-29 fighter planes under licence.

Delhi backed Moscow's policies in key arms issues during the 1980s and refrained from any serious criticism of the Kremlin over its nine-year intervention in Afghanistan.

The Soviet Union is eager to dispel any impression that recent events in Eastern Europe and closer links with the United States have distracted it from relations with its Asian partner. The official

press here has given wide coverage to the visit, quoting Mr Singh as describing Mr Gorbachev as a "wise and perspicacious" man.

However, Western diplomats do not expect the same scale of agreements as those which marked Mr Gandhi's visit, two months after Mr Gorbachev assumed leadership of the Communist party. The Soviet leader has made it clear that Moscow, with its own economic problems, has little money for developing countries.

Indian officials are eager to seize openings as President Gorbachev introduces market reforms.

Russian fur traders feel the chill from warmer winters

From MARY DEJEVSKY
IN Leningrad

AS TEMPERATURES in Leningrad rose close to their summer high of 75F, a select band of international traders was already considering the winter. The world's leading furriers have gathered in Russia's second city for the summer fur auctions, which opened yesterday.

The scene in the grey-stoned stalinist Palace of Fur is an animal liberationist's nightmare. In one darkened hall are strung up hundreds of lynx, fox and mink pelts, each string classified according to type, size and colour.

The hall above, also shaded, contains thousands of sables, the most highly prized being deepest brown with a silver sheen. White-coated assistants pull strings of 20 or 40 at a time off the long hangers and throw them on to the counter for potential bidders to handle. The bidders, also in white coats or aprons, to protect against the oily skins, examine string after string,

feeling the texture, judging the colour and noting in the catalogue their preferred lots. Sable is the Russian fur trade's unique joy: it is produced by no other country. By the end of today, 75,000 sable pelts will have gone under the hammer, worth around £5.5 million. Yesterday was the mink auction, 660,000 skins in all, starting with the dark brown, and proceeding through pastel to grey and white.

Fur is one of the few commodities in which the Soviet Union competes in quality and quantity with any country. An average of 200 traders attend the Leningrad auction, from the United States and Canada, Western Europe and the Far East.

Inside the Palace of Fur the atmosphere is international. The language is English, from the porters to the display hall assistants and in the auction room itself. Even though fur auctions are no longer held in London, everyone in the fur world, in whatever accent, communicates in English.

The fur market is a world market

and it is acknowledged to be in the doldrums. Vladimir Stepanov, a senior official of the Soviet fur trading organisation, Soyuzpshina, says the downturn began five years ago. He suggests three causes: over-production, especially of mink, warmer winters, and the animal rights movement. There are now about 40 million skins for a market that at best will bear 25 million, says Mr Stepanov. Russians complain that they have not had a proper winter for the past three years.

Mr Stepanov puts the animal rights movement only in third position. While it has severely affected the market in America, Scandinavia and Britain, it has had less impact elsewhere. A senior West German buyer noted that the type of people who had always bought fur were still doing so: it had retained its status. Fashion, however, had taken its toll. West Germany used to be the main market for astrakhan; now there are few buyers and no other market has replaced West Germany.

In the Soviet Union, it appears to be the vanishing winter that has affected the fur trade. "So far, thank goodness, the Soviet Greens have not turned their attention to fur," said Irina Krukova, a leading designer. Miss Krukova, who is said to design Raisa Gorbachev's fur coats, but earns her living from designing for the Soviet mass market, said it was time the trade fought back.

She offers much the same defence as the hunting lobby elsewhere in the world. If left to themselves, forest animals overbreed, she argues, and the stock is weakened. She is quite definite: if animal pelts keep people warm, then people take priority over animals.

For the moment, this sentiment finds few challengers in a country where people have for seven decades come second to ideas. But the Soviet green movement is flourishing and, while its attention is at present fixed on nuclear power and urban pollution, it may in time turn to the mink and the sable.

Back in the Palace of Fur, the four international telephone lines are ringing. The girl assistants are taking their break, putting up their feet on the vinyl chairs and sipping from cans of fizzy drinks.

Yesterday, each fall of the hammer meant up to 200 mink pelts at between \$8 and \$16 apiece. In series of lots, the last buyer would gain first option on the next lot, and \$20,000 changed hands in seconds. A deal is done not just by the highest price but, when the bidding is close, by the first to stake the new price. In less than two hours, more than 300,000 pelts changed hands.

Aside from the world downturn, the Soviet fur trade has experienced special problems of its own. The reorganisation of the foreign trade sector meant that for two years the fur trade was almost self-governing, with individual organisations allowed to deal for themselves. Fur was particularly in demand by barter traders because, unlike the Soviet rouble, it has value on the world market.

Mr Stepanov said that as a result of the changes standards dropped, the consistency of grading which had distinguished the Soviet fur trade was reduced, and buyers complained. Soviet furs are back in the care of a central Soviet export agency. But if the Russian Federation, which is the country's main source of furs, gains the degree of economic autonomy it wants, the trade could once again be conducted mainly on a regional basis as it was before state-sponsored exports of furs began in 1931.

Before the revolution, much Russian fur was traded at the famous market at Nizhni Novgorod on the Volga, which is now Gorky. The city has stated its intention to revert to its former name and revive the market as an annual world trade fair that would rival Hamburg or Leipzig. If it succeeds, the fur traders of the future may find themselves pursuing their distant predecessors to the Volga and this summer's Leningrad auction could be one of the last.

Arab world steps up efforts to end Iraq-Kuwait row

FROM CHRISTOPHER WALKER IN CAIRO

KING Hussein of Jordan arrived in Egypt yesterday for urgent talks with President Mubarak and Tariq Aziz, Iraq's foreign minister, in an attempt to play down the severity of the oil and land dispute between Iraq and Kuwait.

The diplomatic drive aimed to prevent the war of words in the Gulf spilling over into armed conflict and to smooth the path to Thursday's meeting in Geneva of Opec, the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries. But it was undermined by a broadside in Iraq's official press designed to discredit Kuwait's foreign minister, Sheikh Sabah al-Ahmed al-Sabah, brother of the Emir.

Iraqi government newspapers accused the Kuwaiti foreign minister of being a United States agent and blamed him for the clash. "Sabah al-Ahmed's malignant hand is behind all the harm inflicted on Iraq and he put himself as a tool to implement the American policy in Kuwait, including the sabotage of the Iran-Kuwait relations," alleged the Baghdad daily *Al-Jumhuriya*. "Today he is the

pivot of the conspiracy hatched by the Kuwait government against the Iraq and Arab nation."

The criticism of the sheikh, who is also deputy prime minister of the tiny oil-rich state, was the first personalised attack in a week of fierce Iraqi accusations against its neighbour over its excess oil production.

Despite the sabre-rattling, Arab diplomats in Cairo remained cautiously optimistic that armed conflict could be avoided. Iraq has one million soldiers and a missile programme honed by eight years of war with Iran, while Kuwait has only 20,300 men under arms. After talks with the Jordanian monarch and the Iraqi foreign minister, President Mubarak said in Alexandria: "I am certain that what has been called a problem is, in itself, easy to solve. I am certain the two countries will reach a quiet and comfortable solution. It does not need all this noise which is happening in the media."

The dispute started last week when Iraq accused Kuwait and the United Arab Emirates of robbing the Arabs

of millions of dollars by over-production of oil. Iraq claimed to have lost \$14 billion (£7.7 billion) this year and threatened unspecified action if they continued this "dangerous policy".

Iraq and Kuwait also traded accusations on theft of oil reserves, economic sabotage and occupation of each other's territory in the latest revival of a border dispute which stretches back four decades and has twice brought the countries close to war since Kuwait won independence from Britain in 1961.

An Economist Intelligence Unit report two weeks ago said: "The Iraqi leadership is determined to improve its geopolitical position through better access to waters of the Gulf, and Kuwait is the only area through which this can be achieved."

The complexity of the differences over oil in the 1990s was emphasised when Iraq received some support for its stand over production quotas from two semi-official papers in Iran which praised the Iraqi stand and said that it was shared by all other Opec members.



Talks fail to halt Shia battles

PALESTINIAN guerrillas manning a multi-rocket launcher in the village of Sarba yesterday as rival Shia militias battled in south Lebanon for the eighth consecutive day, despite Iranian efforts to halt the fighting that has killed 112 people.

The Syrian-backed Amal and pro-Iranian Hezbollah pounded each other's positions with heavy artillery and rockets, according to security sources (Reuters reports). The bombardments hit at least 18 villages but concentrated on Jarjous, captured by Hezbollah on July 16. Amal and other pro-Syrian Lebanese groups, backed by Palestine Liberation Organisation fighters, have failed to retake the village.

An Iranian embassy delegation, led by Gholamreza Valizadeh, continued talks with militia officials in Sidon to try to end the battles in the nearby Jaffin al-Toufah district, 25 miles south of Beirut. He said he was trying to implement a pact signed by Hezbollah and Amal under the sponsorship of Damascus and Tehran 18 months ago. The "Damascus accord" was never carried out because the warring factions had different interpretations of its articles.

Zulu-ANC clash claims 24 lives

FROM RAY KENNEDY IN JOHANNESBURG

AT LEAST 24 people have been killed in pitched battles between supporters of the Zulu Inkatha movement and the African National Congress in townships to the south of Johannesburg.

News of the carnage emerged yesterday as conflicting accounts appeared of government-inspired reports of swoops on ANC hardliners claimed to be plotting armed insurrection.

Most of the killing occurred in Sebokeng township in the so-called Vaal triangle, 30 miles south of Johannesburg. There, next door to Sharpeville township, where 69 people were killed by police at a demonstration in 1960, at least 11 were killed by police gunfire in March. This almost led to the cancellation of talks between the South African government and the ANC, which eventually took place in early May.

The weekend violence in Sebokeng came after an agreement last Friday between Nelson Mandela and President F. W. de Klerk that the next full round of negotiations between the government and the ANC would be held in Pretoria from August 6.

Police yesterday denied they had sided with Inkatha in the fighting in Sebokeng, which erupted after a rally sponsored by the Zulu movement in the township soccer stadium. One of the victims was a police warrant officer who was killed with an assegai, the traditional Zulu short stabbing spear.

Neil Coleman, a spokesman for the Council of South African Trade Unions, an ANC affiliate, said yesterday that police had promised they would not allow armed people to attend the Inkatha rally.

"But the Zulu imps (fighting units) were armed to the teeth," he said. "They had a whole range of weapons, including guns." He claimed they had arrived at the rally in buses and minibus taxis, escorted by "mainly white police in about 18 vehicles and two Casspirs (armoured personnel carriers)".

More than 3,000 people have been killed in the four years of warfare between Inkatha, led by Chief Mangosuthu Buthelezi, the chief minister of the KwaZulu homeland, and supporters of the ANC.

The spilling over of the violence to Sebokeng township, which is in the South African industrial heartland based around Johannesburg, is the first serious indication that the battle for black political domination might spread. Just over a week ago Chief Buthelezi relinquished Inkatha, until now identified as a mainly Zulu cultural movement, as a multi-racial political party in direct opposition to the ANC.

Meanwhile the government's state security council, headed by President de Klerk, met yesterday. It is believed that high on the agenda were the arrests of ANC members who, according to the weekend reports, were plotting insurrection to disrupt the peace talks between the organisation and the government.

At the same time, in a South Africa enveloped by suspicion, the ANC executive began a two-day meeting at a secret venue near Johannesburg to plan its strategy for the talks.

● Leadership poll: Twenty-two per cent of South African

blacks prefer President de Klerk as the country's leader while his ruling National party has 10 per cent black support, according to an opinion poll published here yesterday by *The Star*.

The Markinor Institute's poll of 1,500 urban blacks in April found 58 per cent support for Mr Mandela and 64 per cent for his African National Congress.

The newspaper commented that the National party, which imposed apartheid more than four decades ago but is currently moving to dismantle it, "has a future even under a system of universal adult suffrage" (AFP).

Spain pulls out Havana ambassador

Madrid — Spain recalled its ambassador from Cuba yesterday as it wrestled with whether to break off relations with the communist state over the problem of 18 Cubans seeking refuge in its embassy in Havana (Juan Carlos Gumucio writes).

Spain suspects that at least nine of the refugees are agents provocateurs, infiltrated into the embassy to thwart the attempts of the genuine dissidents to escape. Cuba has thrown a cordon around the embassy, and has accused Spain of meddling in its internal affairs by giving sanctuary to dissidents.

Nepal epidemic

Kathmandu — A diarrhoea-dysentery epidemic has claimed 236 lives in the past month, according to Nepalese government statistics. The epidemic, affecting 18 of the country's 75 districts, has been blamed on unhygienic food and drinking water and poor waste disposal.

Train derailed

Toronto — Vandalism derailed a high-speed TGV train with 368 passengers aboard. No one was injured. Police said that the incident on Sunday was unconnected to protests against plans to expand the high-speed rail network into the Provence region. (AP)

Football riot

Dhaka — Rioting fans left at least 50 people injured in the southern port city of Chittagong. The violence erupted after a referee dismissed a penalty appeal by Abahani club four minutes before the final whistle with a game against the Chittagong Customs level at 1-1. (AP)

Drug action

Madrid — British and Spanish officials discussed joint action against drug smuggling around Gibraltar. Spain alleges the British colony is a centre for drug smuggling and for laundering its proceeds — charges which local officials deny. (Reuters)

Reprieve hope

Auckland — The government is to consider clearing the name of a Maori chief hanged 133 years ago for the murder of a missionary. *The New Zealand Herald* reported. Mokomoko's last words were: "Farewell, you Pakehas (whites), I die without crime." (AP)



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هكزامن الأول

Seoul opposition resigns in push for early election

From SIMON WARNER IN SEOUL

THE entire South Korean opposition resigned from parliament yesterday in an attempt to force general elections two years early and topple the government.

The move prompted a spokesman for the ruling Democratic Liberal Party to warn that a scared public feared "violent revolution". While such predictions seem to have no basis, the tactics of the 80 opposition members in the 299-member national assembly could plunge South Korean politics into fresh difficulties.

The resignations were handed in to Park Chun Kyu, the assembly speaker. Such a move has happened in South Korea twice before, in 1965 and 1979, according to local newspapers. The ruling party said the resignations would be

returned by Mr Park, a member of the party headed by President Roh.

The opposition legislators, determined to get their point across, cleared out their desks and began vacating their offices. But under South Korean law the speaker can sit on the resignations until the next session of parliament in September and then have them voted on.

The Party for Peace and Democracy, led by Kim Dae Jung, which has 70 legislators, and its new ally, the splinter Democratic Party with eight, said salaries would no longer be accepted and they were effectively out of parliament whatever the speaker decides. They are attempting to form a united opposition front with a dissident group and could set up a new party by September.

The resignations have come as the government is trying to persuade the North Korean government to open the border for five days, from August 13, for unrestricted two-way travel.

In a press conference, the government announced it was accepting virtually all the conditions set by the North when it rejected the South's initial offer last Friday.

South called for negotiations this Friday to discuss an inspection of structures that Pyongyang says block free travel between the two sides.

The South also said it would allow citizens to attend a rally on August 15 which is being organised by the North on its side of the truce village of Panmunjom, to mark the 45th anniversary of Korean liberation from Japanese colonial rule.

A march, sponsored by the Communists, from a mountain in the extreme north of Korea to another mountain on the capitalist South's southern-most island would also be allowed to go ahead, the government said.

At a meeting of the military armistice commission in Panmunjom, North Korea asked that all military personnel and equipment be removed from the truce village before the unification rally.

The South Korean government also said it was willing to discuss the National Security Law, which bans contact with the North and describes it as an enemy state.

With each side distrustful of the other, even these apparently generous offers are unlikely to be taken at face value. The South is asking for a quick pro quo that the North may find unacceptable.

Seoul wants negotiations to include the North's laws, it wants Pyongyang to open its ally to South Korean non-dissident participants and it wants to inspect military facilities in the northern half of the demilitarized zone.

So while there is much wishful thinking here, there appear few grounds for optimism that the border will be opened to allow free travel soon. The opposition parties accuse the government of using the issue to divert attention from their demands.

But in the South-North battle for propaganda points these events could accidentally yield big advantages.



Villagers at Nueva Viscaya, in the northern Philippines, cut off by a landslide after last week's earthquake, scrambling for relief goods brought in by helicopter. Aid has been pouring into Manila since the earthquake, but survivors in the north complain that food is not

getting through quickly enough (Reuters and AP report). "We need food, SOS," pleaded a message painted on a basketball court in the badly damaged village of Tuba, near the mountain resort of Baguio, which was ravaged by the earthquake last Monday. In Baguio and surrounding areas, survivors are reported to be still going hungry. Baguio residents said they had to wait for days and sign numerous forms to claim supplies. In a state-of-the-nation address yesterday, President Aquino called for \$500,000 (£275,000)

emergency aid to earthquake victims, and unity in the dispute over US bases in the Philippines. But her congressional audience responded with silence, which commentators said showed that the executive and legislative branches had become estranged.

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Ports may close to boat people

By ANDREW MCEWEN, DIPLOMATIC EDITOR

SIX Asian nations will decide in the next two days whether to carry out a threat to stop Vietnamese boat people landing at their ports.

Foreign ministers of the Association of South East Asian Nations (Asean) meet in Jakarta today and tomorrow for talks on the boat people, Cambodia and other issues. They warned in May they would take unspecified measures if there were no international agreement by July to allow countries hosting boat people to send them back to Vietnam. The six - Brunei, Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines, Singapore and Thailand - have indicated through diplomatic channels that they are exasperated with the United States and, to a lesser extent, Vietnam, which have been blocking an agreement.

Britain and the association's member nations made a joint diplomatic approach to Washington, while Thorvald Stoltenberg, the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, tried to persuade President Bush to stand aside and allow the other 28 nations concerned to go ahead. Both moves failed. Britain and Asean also approached Vietnam, but it is thought Hanoi

will not drop its objections unless Washington does first.

Francis Maude, Minister of State at the Foreign Office, said it was possible that the Asean ministers would end the principle of "first asylum", which allows boat people to enter their countries temporarily pending resettlement elsewhere. "We would certainly urge them not to do that, but we have got to recognise that they are under great pressure."

The 29-nation International Conference on Indochina agreed last year on a "comprehensive plan of action" which preserved the principle of first asylum. It also said that boat people should be screened to distinguish between refugees and economic migrants, the backlog of genuine refugees should be resettled, and the migrants repatriated. Mandatory repatriation was to be used only if voluntary methods failed.

The British and Hong Kong governments always argued that voluntary methods alone would not work. This was accepted in January by all the countries, except America and Vietnam. "All four (elements) are necessary if the plan is to work," Mr Maude said.

Maude faces hard line from Peking

From JONATHAN BRAUDE IN HONG KONG

FRANCIS MAUDE, the foreign office minister, does not expect to find dramatic improvements in Peking's attitude to Hong Kong when he flies into the Chinese capital this afternoon as the first European minister to visit since the violent military suppression of the democracy movement last summer.

On his arrival in Hong Kong last night, Mr Maude said he "would not expect any immediate dramatic results" from his talks with Li Peng, the Chinese prime minister, and senior staff from the Hong Kong and Macao Affairs Office. High on the agenda for discussion will be the offer of full British citizenship for 50,000 leading Hong Kong people and their families, and the territory's proposed bill of rights. The Chinese have angrily opposed both moves.

China has attacked the British Nationality (Hong Kong) Bill, fearing it would help extend British influence in the territory long after it reverts to Chinese rule in 1997. Peking also says the offer of passports to an elite will be socially divisive and do nothing to calm fears of the millions who do not qualify.

Mr Maude has presented his visit as a mission to explain and reassure the Chinese that the purpose of these policies is to bolster confidence, stability and prosperity in Hong Kong. He said that the Tiananmen Square massacre had not been forgotten, but with only seven years to go before the handover to China, Hong Kong's problems were too important to ignore.

However, few expect China to pass up the opportunity of rebuking Britain, and the success of the visit will be judged on how mild is the rebuke.

Mr Maude is expected to raise the question of Hong Kong's proposed £10 billion port and airport development, which has so far not attracted Chinese support.

The visit will also provide the opportunity for serious discussions on Cambodia, with China still supporting the Khmer Rouge despite last week's US decision to drop its backing for the anti-government forces and open talks with the Cambodian government's Vietnamese backers.

Britain and China both fear that the new American interest in Vietnam will destroy hopes of deporting thousands of Vietnamese boat people in Hong Kong camps.

In a separate development, six Hong Kong democracy activists, all but one members of the newly formed liberal United Democrats of Hong Kong, appeared before a magistrate yesterday for using loudhailers without police permission, and with collecting money without a licence from the Director of Social Welfare.

Although judgement is not expected until Friday, the prosecutions under the antiquated Summary Offences Ordinance, have already been criticised as a political show-trial. Until this year, no one had been prosecuted for using loudhailers under the ordinance, introduced in 1933 to curb shopkeepers from broadcasting their advertisements to people in the street.

Leading article, page 13

Indian border force masses as Kashmir 'war season' looms

From CHRISTOPHER THOMAS IN MUZAFFARABAD, KASHMIR

PAKISTAN-controlled Kashmir is monitoring huge troop deployments by India along the rugged border region, heightening a sense of foreboding as the "war season" of autumn and early winter looms.

The mood here is sombre and apprehensive as people talk about the possibility of war: a far cry from five months ago when this grubby provincial capital of "Azad" Kashmir celebrated the prospect of a battle with India with fireworks and parades. It has clearly been intimidated into silence.

Pakistani military analysts in Islamabad estimate that India has 150,000 soldiers and 50,000-strong paramilitary forces on the border. Senior army officers say Pakistan has 100,000 men plus some paramilitary forces on its side. They estimate that India has a total security force throughout Kashmir of 350,000 men.

Even so, in military and political circles in Pakistan, there is still no expectation of imminent conflict. Indeed, soldiers deployed on the border have not had their annual leave cancelled. A senior officer said the most dangerous time would be September to December, when cooler weather would provide "perfect" fighting conditions.

Mumtaz Rathore, the new prime minister of the semi-autonomous region of Azad Kashmir, said tensions remained high. He received daily reports of four or five Pakistani civilians being killed by Indian soldiers firing across the line of control.

Mr Rathore, who belongs to the Pakistan People's Party of Benazir Bhutto, the prime minister, is a Bhutto loyalist who spent two and a half years in prison during the Zia regime. It is now his job to keep the border region calm.

"India is looking for an excuse to start a war, and we don't intend to give it to them," he said. "Benazir Bhutto will not allow me to give any sort of material support to the internal uprising in Kashmir. There are no training camps here, only refugee camps."

Nevertheless, he believes the front is torn by internal divisions over its independence policy, and by the bizarre declaration last month of a provisional government of an independent state called "Jammu Kashmir". Nevertheless, it seems to have the greatest resources of all the groups.

Mr Khan insisted that the organisation did not receive money from the governments of Pakistan or Azad Kashmir. All the fighters in Kashmir were from the "Indian-held" side, with no Pakistanis involved. "Our people need to know the terrain and to have friends, families and relatives to hide them. Somebody from this side would be no good. He wouldn't even speak the same language."

It was "quite easy" to smuggle men and arms across the line of control, and movements could even continue to some extent in the winter. Weapons were bought in tribal areas of northern Pakistan.

Asked if training was conducted anywhere in Azad Kashmir, he said: "Of course. And also in Indian-occupied Kashmir."

Mr Khan's contention that no Pakistanis were directly involved in the Kashmir valley uprising does seem valid, since Pahari, the local language on the Pakistan side of the border, bears little resemblance to Kashmiri, which is spoken in the valley.

There is increasing suspicion that guerrilla organisations are receiving help from Muslim fundamentalist groups based in Afghanistan, which may be providing weapons and could also be training small groups of young Kashmiris in guerrilla warfare.

SRINAGAR: Officials in Indian-ruled Kashmir defied the government and started a three-day strike yesterday in protest against what they called repression by security forces fighting accessionist militants. Union officials said about 80 per cent of government workers stayed at home in Srinagar, the summer capital of Jammu and Kashmir.

The Indian government, which has imposed direct rule on the state, said that the workers could face disciplinary action if they went ahead with the strike, and they could be detained for up to 12 months under legislation outlawing strikes in essential services. The strike excluded emergency hospital and fire services, as well as the police. (Reuters)

Gandhi attack on Pakistan talks

From COOMI KAPOOR IN DELHI

RAJIV Gandhi, the Indian opposition leader, yesterday charged that the coalition government of Vishwanath Pratap Singh, the prime minister, had dispatched the foreign secretary to Pakistan for talks because of pressure from the United States.

Mr Gandhi, who was addressing the convention of the Congress (I) party, of which he is president, accused Mr Singh of going back on his commitment that he would not hold talks with Pakistan until it stopped aiding extremists in Kashmir. Despite new evidence of Pakistan's involvement in the secessionist activity in Kashmir, Mr Singh had reversed his policy, Mr Gandhi said.

The former prime minister said that killings in the border states of Kashmir and Punjab had accelerated since his Congress government stepped down last November.

Yesterday, on the second day of the three-day national convention of the Congress, the largest party in parliament, some far-reaching

amendments to its constitution were passed. These are seen as a first step towards calling organisational elections in the Congress for the first time in 18 years.

Heartened by increasing factionalism within the ruling Janata Dal party, the Congress has stepped up its efforts to try to seize power again in case of a snap mid-term election. Mr Gandhi, who feels that the defeat last December was due largely to slackness in the Congress organisation, has been touring the countryside in an attempt to strengthen the party at grass-roots level.

A resolution passed by the Congress yesterday criticised the government for not living up to its electoral promise that it would disclose the names of those who had allegedly received kickbacks from the Swedish armaments firm, Bofors, in a \$63 million (£35 million) gun deal with the Indian army. The Janata Dal had claimed during the elections that Mr Gandhi's government had received kickbacks.

Kong along the way. He believes a series of miracles have allowed him to avert death from illness, bombs or mine accident. He set up his house church in 1950 and was imprisoned for two years as a counter-revolutionary in 1955. In 1958 he was sentenced to 20 years' hard labour. He has a daughter and a son, but his wife died two years before he was released.

Slight and excitable, Pastor Lin jumps from one subject to another, but always smiles. He points out to the police that he was in no way involved in the student demonstrations last year, telling his congregation that they should stay inside and worship rather than march in the streets.

But the authorities are concerned by the number of young people, among them students, who attend his church. "We come here because we cannot find the same depth of teaching at the state-sanctioned church," said one young person attending the service. The state-sanctioned church has conditioned itself to compromise with the Communist party, confining itself to a teaching which fits neatly inside that framework. Being a good Christian



Activists of the Rashtriya Mukti Morcha party about to burn an effigy of Rajiv Gandhi for opposing an Amnesty International visit to Punjab and Kashmir

Defiant pastor preaches on in Canton upper room

From CATHERINE SAMPSON IN CANTON

A MAN is trying to disentangle a kitten from where it has become stuck in the bars to the gateway of 35 Damazhan Alley. On the ground floor is Canton's local census office, with banners outside proclaiming the fact, while on the door to the first and second floors there is a government notice strictly banning religious gatherings in the house. Up two flights of rickety stairs, however, about a hundred people are seated in pews, their heads bowed at an evening prayer meeting.

In February the police came and took away the hymnals and many of the bibles and closed the church down. Now, five times a week, dozens and sometimes hundreds of people ignore, or simply shrug their shoulders at, the government notice and file past it up the stairs to worship in Pastor Lin Xiangao's house church.

The upper floor, cooled in Canton's heat by nine furiously turning ceiling fans, hanging from wooden eaves, has space for only about a hundred people. So on Sunday mornings, when peasants travel in

from the countryside and young and old mix together, there is an overflow into Pastor Lin's simple home on the floor below and even out on to the street. Pastor Lin has spent 20 years in labour camps, 15 of them doing the highly dangerous work of linking heavy coal carts together down a pit.

However, he is uncompromising in his refusal to register with the state-sanctioned church. Instead, he preaches a simple, but for the local authorities terrifying, message. He tells his followers that they are citizens of China, and so must obey the law. If, however, they are told to do anything which conflicts with the Bible's teachings, then as Christians they must "listen to God, not man". Pastor Lin also preaches that the second coming of Christ is at hand. Such predictions, of course, make the local authorities nervous.

Recently, rumours have circulated that the authorities want him sentenced to death. Pastor Lin does not believe them, pointing out that he would have to be arrested first and he is free. The rumours, he says, "have been put around by the authorities just to scare people away from coming here". He believes that

the state-sanctioned "Three-Self" Protestant Church is even more determined than the local government to put a stop to his activities.

"This is a struggle between the state-sanctioned church and the house church," said a member of his congregation. Since his release from labour camp in 1978, but particularly in the past two years, the police have regularly called him in for questioning about his activities and his beliefs. They have tried every approach to persuade him to register with the state-sanctioned church, including telling him that the parents of Jesus had registered him with the relevant authorities, so what objection could Pastor Lin have to registering with the government. Pastor Lin replied that he had his household registration card, and that was all which was legally required, and all that Jesus had.

Pastor Lin was born in 1924. His grandfather left China for Detroit in the United States. His father, a Baptist preacher, returned to China when Pastor Lin was a child. Throughout the war, Pastor Lin moved back and forth between Canton and Hong Kong, gaining some theological training in Hong

and a good Communist have certain similarities, for instance, and these are exploited to the full. Billy Graham has visited his church and Ronald Reagan sent him a signed photograph, a bible and a pen. Pastor Lin has been delighted by their attention, but in February about 50 policemen, he says, ransacked his house and took away the photograph and the pen, and all the bibles donated by foreigners. He was taken away for 21 hours of interrogation, and cassette tapes recorded with his testimony in English, standard Chinese and Cantonese, which he has dispatched throughout China and internationally, were confiscated. Now he and his ten co-workers, who depend on donations from the congregation to make a living, are busy recording tapes and reprinting hymnals.

As a measure of caution, Pastor Lin has told his co-workers that when they go visiting they "should not go fishing" for converts. But fishing is not necessary. The word has already spread from the town alleys to the countryside and more people every week climb the stairs past the government banning notice to Pastor Lin's house church.

More than 1,500 people, including civilians, have died in fighting between security forces and the Tigers since June 11. Refugees fleeing the fighting now herd cattle and goats ahead of them so that the animals will trigger landmines.

Two civilians were killed and five injured in a landmine explosion as 3,000 people trekked through jungle to escape fighting on the border between northwestern Mannar and Puttalam districts, said I. M. Ilyas, a doctor in Puttalam.

Dr Ilyas, a member of the northwest provincial council who leads a medical team trying to help the refugees, said by telephone that more than 20 head of cattle and 10 goats were also killed by landmines.

Military sources said that the Tigers had planted hundreds of home-made mines on roads and jungle paths to stop government soldiers from advancing on their hide-outs. (Reuters)

Toll rises in battle against Tamils

From A CORRESPONDENT IN COLOMBO

NINE Sri Lankan soldiers were killed and 35 injured when troops clashed with the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam at Paranthan in the north of the country on Sunday night. Eighteen Tamil Tigers were also killed, security sources said. The injured soldiers have been flown to Colombo.

The government yesterday imposed a curfew in the administrative district of Kilinochchi, 205 miles north of Colombo, including Paranthan and Elephant pass. The government warned people to remain indoors and said that any movement by them would be considered as terrorist activity.

In another incident on Sunday, in the eastern Batticaloa district, Sri Lankan security forces killed at least 72 Tiger rebels in separate incidents at Kalavanchikudi, Mundur, Kokadicholai and Vellavali. The government said that flushing-out operations were still underway in areas of the district.

In northern Vavuniya, one soldier was killed when a detachment in the outskirts of Vavuniya town was fired on by the Tigers. At Silavathrai in the northern Mannar district, fierce battles between Sri Lankan forces and the Tigers left at least 39 people dead, including seven soldiers, on Saturday night.

A Sri Lankan parliamentary delegation, led by the Speaker, which visited India to brief Indian leaders on the war between the government and the Tamil Tigers, was told that India would not interfere in the internal affairs of Sri Lanka. But concern was expressed over the growing number of Tamil refugees and suffering of civilians in the Northern and Eastern provinces, and the possible involvement of a third country in Sri Lanka's internal racial conflict.

The delegation will also visit Pakistan, Bangladesh and the Maldives.

Tamils resign: Eleven Tamil members of the Sri Lankan parliament resigned yesterday in protest at an army offensive against Tamil guerrillas. A spokesman for the Eelam Revolutionary Organisation of Students, the second largest parliamentary opposition group, said its 11 legislators had repeatedly asked the government to stop the offensive against the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam because civilians were being killed.

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Military sources said that the Tigers had planted hundreds of home-made mines on roads and jungle paths to stop government soldiers from advancing on their hide-outs. (Reuters)

Which way ahead to monetary union? Alan Walters, former economic adviser to Mrs Thatcher, believes our interests would best be served by creating an inflation-proof EC currency—not diktat from the Brussels bureaucracy

A new Euromoney that all would buy



IS THERE really to be a monetary union of the European Community? One sole currency throughout the 12 countries?

Will the mark be our standard of account and medium of exchange? Will the Bundesbank rule Europe? Or will Europe cook up its own currency, administered by either Brussels bureaucrats (of the great and the good variety) or some "representative" body of the 12?

The answers to these questions will have profound effects not just on the economies of the Community but on the whole political structure of the Community, greater Europe and the West generally. Economically, a monetary union is clearly feasible. The easiest and the most plausible arrangement would be for 11 countries simply to fix their currencies irrevocably and precisely to the mark. The pound might be fixed at exactly three marks; but to make this fix credible, the Bank of England would be converted into a simple currency exchange, swapping on demand £1 for three marks. The Bank would have no power to ease or squeeze the money supply, nor any influence over interest rates. These important matters would be the preserve of the Bundesbank. (Indeed, the Bank of England would be just like the currency boards that operated in Britain's colonies before they became independent. Britain would be a monetary colony of Germany.)

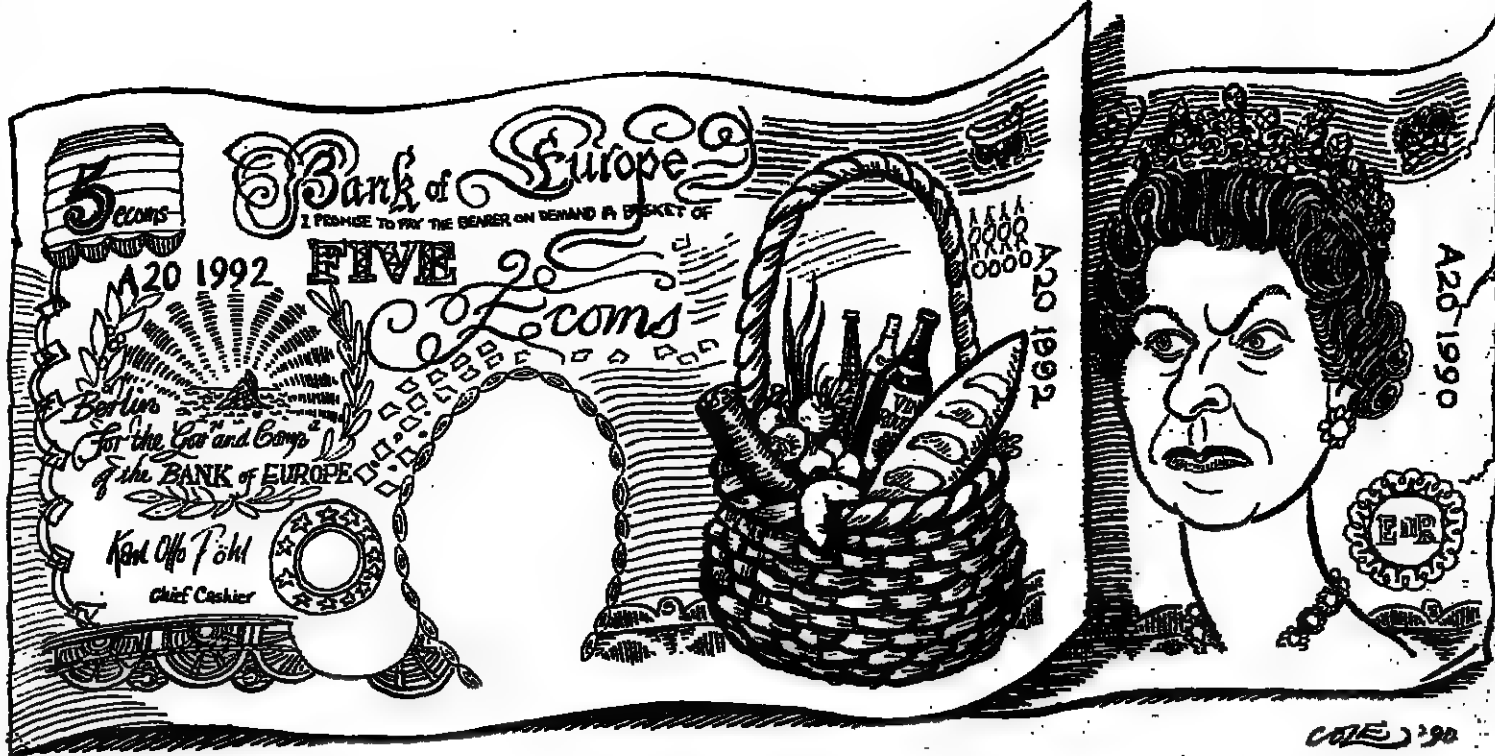
Although Bank of England notes would circulate, they would be simply surrogates for marks. The Bundesbank would determine our interest rates and monetary policy. To avoid all this money-changing, it would be but a short step for Britain to adopt the mark

as its own currency—which would be the ultimate monetary union. In economic terms there is much to be said for this union. Among the 12, the Bundesbank has the best reputation for monetary and price stability, so it would be best for the others to latch on to its credibility and willingly surrender their monetary sovereignty and high rates of inflation for the stability of German rule.

Although I believe that many Germans—perhaps most—would accept this as a sensible and feasible union, it does not play so well in Paris, Rome and London. True, the union enthusiasts want irrevocably fixed exchange rates or a single currency, but they are reluctant to allow monetary sovereignty in Europe to be concentrated in the Bundesbank.

It is said, and I think rightly, that the Bundesbank would conduct monetary policy mainly according to the needs of greater Germany, and this may be inappropriate or even perverse for at least some of the other countries. For example, to finance the increased investment needed in the erstwhile Democratic Republic, Germany may require higher interest rates in the years ahead. But France, with its high unemployment, is unlikely to think such high interest rates consistent with its own objectives. The grumbling which goes on in the present half-baked and much looser EMS, together with occasional outright defiance of the rules, gives an idea of the extreme divergence of views that would attend a tight union.

Inevitably, countries would have different ideas about the appropriate monetary policy for the union. They would not want to leave it to the Bundesbank but would demand a say: what the French have called *symétrie*. Such *symétrie* can be achieved in



various ways, but ultimately all amount to erosion of Bundesbank hegemony. So the dilemma is clear: if the other central banks wanted to exert control over the Bundesbank, the likelihood of responsible policies would be reduced. The Bundesbank's celebrated independence, together with its enviable reputation, would disappear.

The unionists assert that they have an answer. They say there should be a new Community institution: a European system of central banks, a sort of Eurofed. Somehow, it is argued, this new institution would acquire the gravitas of the Bundesbank while representing the interests of the 12 (and presumably "co-ordinating" policy with Washington and To-

kyo). We are told it would be rather like the Federal Reserve Board in America. But the unionists ignore America's much greater homogeneity and flexibility; nor have they taken on board the horrendous errors characteristic of the Fed's power, such as its monetary squeeze of 1929-33, which caused the Great Depression, or the monetary profligacy which gave rise to the great inflation of the 1970s.

One can understand the reluctance of Britain and Germany, among others, to surrender their monetary control to a nebulous Eurofed. However, some countries, such as France and Italy, think they will gain more control over the Eurofed than they have over the Bundesbank (and the

irresistible rise of French bureaucrats in the Community power-structure suggests that they may be right).

I doubt whether there can be any agreement on a Eurofed with a single managed currency for Europe which satisfies the German need for Bundesbank hegemony and the requirement of the other 11 for some effective control of the Eurocurrency. But there is a way out. The Community could set up a new currency, which—unlike the present ecu or the proposed "hard" ecu—is in no way related to existing currencies. This new currency would be constituted so as to be entirely free of inflation or deflation. A unit of the currency—which we can call the "ecom"—would always buy

the same defined basket of commodities. Just as under the old gold standard, a pound or dollar was convertible into a quantity of gold, so under the commodity standard an "ecom" would be convertible. But to avoid the issuer of "ecom" having to store commodities analogous to gold, the convertibility would be into financial assets.

Such a currency would require no Eurofed or central bank to determine "ecom" monetary policy. Through arbitrage by the private sector, the quantity of "ecom" would automatically adjust to satisfy the wishes of people at the constant price of the commodity basket. The only institutional requirement would be a bank of issue, which, rather like

the old colonial boards, would set no policy but would simply respond to people exchanging "ecom" against the reserve asset. The "ecom" would be the epitome of a depoliticised currency.

Furthermore, it could be introduced parallel to the existing currencies at whatever exchange rate was determined by the market or by the operations of ERM interventions. People could freely choose whether to use the "ecom" or some other currency. Of course, it would be a 13th currency within the Community, but if it were successful it could develop into the Community's single currency. Establishing the "ecom" would entail some surrender of monetary sovereignty, but it would not involve transferring sovereignty to any foreign prince, to the rulers of a greater Germany or to the clever operators on a Community committee. The state would give up its power to expropriate its citizens to the principle of a stable currency. The scheme would be like a reconstitution of the gold standard, but without gold's well-known disadvantages. Many statesmen have pleaded the case for a new anchor in gold or commodities to prevent the drift towards inflation. The "ecom" seems to be the best anchor one can devise.

Whether the "ecom" would be popular with the people of the Community, and whether it would ultimately overcome the reluctance to surrender monetary sovereignty, I do not know. But we shall never know unless it is established and allowed to compete. To introduce it would cost little. If it failed, like the ecu, little would be lost. If it succeeded, it would be the dawn of a new era of monetary stability and security. *The ideas in this article are developed in Sir Alan Walters' Sterling in Danger: The Economic Consequences of Pegged Exchange Rates (Fontana, £6.99).*

Michael Butler urges greater commitment to the Major plan—which he helped draw up—as a step towards full union

Britain builds a bridge: now we must cross it



SOME recent informed comment in Britain has tended towards reluctant acquiescence in the approach to European economic and monetary union of Karl Otto Pöhl, president of the Bundesbank: that full EMU should start with only a few countries participating.

That may make good sense for the Bundesbank, but would in my view be dangerous for the European Community and contrary to the interests of Britain and the other nations outside the magic circle Herr Pöhl envisages. This view ought not to win the day at the intergovernmental conference to be held in December.

What Herr Pöhl proposes is clear. The conference would agree a treaty, signed by all 12 countries, creating a European system of central banks with a common currency ("which might carry the name ecu") and with complete central control over monetary policy. This central bank system would be run by a

council modelled on the Bundesbank council, in which power would reside with the chairman and strong directorate of permanent officials, with the governors of the 12 national central banks playing a subsidiary role. All EC countries would nominally be members of the system of central banks, but it would start life with Benelux, France and possibly Denmark. The others would join later when their inflation and interest rates had converged sufficiently.

Herr Pöhl compares this to the Labour government's "soft landing", negotiated in 1978, which made Britain nominally a member of the EMS but not of the exchange rate mechanism. We can do without another European organisation which we will join "when the time is ripe", this one would be much more important.

What would be the practical consequences? Either directly or using the participating national central banks as its operating arms, the system of central banks would manage ecu interest rates and exchange rates (against the pound and the lira as well as the

dollar and the yen) through open market operations and intervention on the foreign exchanges. The Bank of England and the London markets would be highly unlikely to get a fair share of this business, given Paris, Frankfurt and Amsterdam's strong interest in improving their competitive positions. Not only would this business not come to London, but international banks would conclude that London's chances of remaining Europe's main financial centre were sharply diminished. They would shift staff and business elsewhere, and the process would be cumulative with each year that passed.

Significant problems would doubtless arise for the participating countries from a rapid move to full EMU. To solve them would require special meetings of their finance ministers, and perhaps of government leaders. The US and Japan would regard the system of central banks as representing Europe and would negotiate with it directly, even though the outcome would affect all member states. The Community would suffer if one of the most crucial

elements of its closer union were in the hands of only some of its members. The outsiders' views would carry less weight in the EC council.

The system of central banks would develop its own methods of monetary control. Instead of playing a role in forming them, the Bank of England would sit on the sidelines and the system would be marginally more difficult for us to join when the time became ripe. Meanwhile, in a single market with free movement of capital, would Britain, in practice, have any real choice but to follow the central banks' monetary lead?

Herr Pöhl is right that it would be difficult for six of the member states to move rapidly to full EMU. But then in the interests of the EC as a whole, should we not have a proper stage two to prepare the 12 for full EMU as quickly as possible? John Major's plan could begin on January 1, 1993. A European system of central banks, consisting of the 12 central banks and a European monetary fund (EMF) owned and run by them could be created on that day. The EMF would manage the hard ecu

and the system of central banks would co-ordinate national monetary policies.

The hard ecu proposals developed by the Bank of England would exert strong counter-inflationary pressure in those countries suffering high inflation rates and would provide a major disincentive to further devaluations. Once companies saw that the new ecu could not be devalued against the strong currencies, and that there was full convertibility and a lender of last resort, they would have every incentive to hold ecu bank balances and to trade in ecus. There would be no further need to hedge ecu balances, and transaction costs would be markedly diminished. The ecu would probably grow quite rapidly as a percentage of the Community's money stock. Instead of being the deutschmark by another name, the hard ecu would be a real currency, with its own interest-rate structure managed by the EMF. In any case the mark may not always be the strongest of the 12 currencies.

It is agreed in the monetary community that there must be

transitional arrangements, between stage one and stage three, but as yet there are no firm ideas about what they might be. The hard ecu plan would help to prepare all member states for full EMU, and would ensure that when the time came to move forward, a working system with a common currency was in place. To move in this way would be far less risky than to jump from even six national monetary policies and currencies to a small union with one currency and one monetary policy.

It took a little while for the merits of the hard ecu plan to be accepted by the Bank of England and subsequently by the government. The same process may now be taking place on the continent. One key player in the EMU game told me last week that in his opinion there were only two routes to full EMU. Herr Pöhl's and the British proposals, provided they are seen not as the final objective but as a bridge between stages one and three.

Most of those who work in the EC share my view that it ought to remain indivisible. Temporary

derogations for a specific purpose may be necessary, but any two-tier approach would be divisive and destructive. If the British proposals are seen as a practical way of allowing the 12 to move forward at a reasonable speed towards full EMU, they will stand a good chance of being accepted. The prime minister accepted the "progressive realisation" of EMU at Madrid last summer. So I would hope that the government will soon make clear that it sees its proposal as a transition from stage one to full EMU.

If the government does not make this clear, the Pöhl approach may prevail. Presumably Britain would not sign a treaty setting up such a system of central banks but the others will go ahead anyway. The European Community will suffer from such a quarrel, and Britain will suffer most by being left on the sidelines once again and having to climb back later.

Sir Michael Butler, an executive director of Hambros Bank, was Britain's permanent representative to the European Community, 1970-85.

...and moreover

ADRIAN DANNATT

The news due shortly that a giant entertainment corporation is to buy Albania is not surprising. Ever since Gorbachev introduced his reforms, corporate executives have been looking for a suitable socialist state to buy and preserve as a museum of the Evil Empire.

Albania is the last old-fashioned communist country in Europe, and its new owners guarantee that nothing will be changed. The fabric of the country (reinforced concrete, largely) will be kept as it is (damp and crumbling). Staff in Tirana, the capital, will ensure that its unique selling points are not threatened by the transformations that have damaged the touristic integrity of Eastern Europe.

"They were about to pull down all the statues of Stalin, the last to be found anywhere today. We've managed to save them and are now trying to reverse the whole liberalisation process," said a company representative in Tirana, unidentified because of the delightfully quaint telephone system.

According to marketing executives, Albania will be cheaper and more profitable to run than other theme parks. These require constant maintenance, while Albania needs only persistent decay. Squalor is an essential part of the experience.

Albania's population, a meagre 3.3 million, has long been controlled by the 10,000 or so members of the Sigurimi, or secret police, considerably fewer than the staff required at any other theme park. They will be retained, albeit with a redesigned uniform to emphasise their authoritarian nature. Door-knocking after midnight is to be extended until dawn. For a small surcharge, visitors will be able to experience arrest and interrogation.

Only 210 miles north to south and some 90 miles across at the widest, Albania is of an eminently manageable size, and the logical stop-off for any American visiting Europe who wants to sample "The Stalin Experience".

The corporation expects to capture a large market of tourists hungry for increasingly exotic or impossible locations which also have educational potential. Many of the thousands of Americans who have been flooding to Prague recently have returned

home sorely disappointed by its liberal atmosphere, having hoped to catch a glimpse of a security agent or genuine dissident.

But Albania's new owner is also gunning for a whole new market of politically-inspired clients. Indeed, what its marketing department terms "unreconstructed bleeding-heart liberals" and a wide variety of left-of-centre activists are expected to make up a fair share of the trade.

Nostalgic socialists will not be the only fellow travellers on such trips. The beauty that both left and right will put Albania at the top of their must-see list. There has been a real crisis among the American right over lack of suitably horrific communist states to report back on. The archetypal hawks' holiday, with colour slides of lower blocks and *samizdat* souvenirs, has almost vanished.

With the re-establishment of the secret police, human rights organisations will be among those checking into the resolutely unmodernised hotels of Tirana. "A lot of human rights workers have been feeling pretty sore about the changes in Eastern Europe. A week in Albania will remind them of how it used to be and give them something to write home about," says a spokesman.

There will be a flat fee for all visitors. The price, not yet fixed, will guarantee hotels without bathplugs or soap, telephones with mysterious tape noises, hour-long queues for undercooked chicken, and the sight of people with placards being bundled into trucks with tinted glass. Border security will be intensified to deter unauthorised tourists.

"As time goes by, more and more people are going to want to know what life was like under a classic communist dictatorship. In Albania alone, the People's Republic will continue unchanged since 1945." According to a press-release, Albania is already sold out for its first year of business as a political theme park.

"The company's best bargain yet," was the reaction of one Wall Street analyst. "It was bound to happen, ever since someone tried to buy Gdansk. I've already booked a weekend with my girlfriend this Christmas: it promises to be truly chilly."

Putting on a brave show

Hours before the formal announcement of the elevation of David Mellor to arts minister, the dismissal of his predecessor, Richard Luce, became one of the worst-kept secrets in many a reshuffle.

Even more embarrassingly, Luce's staff were seemingly among the last to learn that they had a new boss—many hearing the news from Mark Fisher, Luce's Opposition shadow.

Mellor was one of the first to be called into Mrs Thatcher's office yesterday morning to be told of his promotion—and given the prime minister's new-found interest in all matters cultural, the job is regarded thus. But one can only feel sorry for Luce, who, as fate would have it, had to field arts questions in the Commons

I knew as much about the reshuffle as I did about the Arts



only hours before the announcement of his sacking. Although most MPs already knew that it was his last appearance at the despatch box before returning to the backbenches, Luce gamely carried on in best theatrical tradition, pretending that nothing had happened. Fisher, however, could not resist applying the old principle of kicking a man when he is down—by offering Luce fulsome praise and expressing

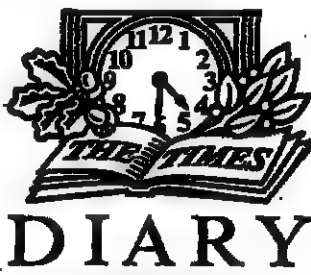
his sorrow to see him go.

The much-travelled Mellor, who has twice been minister of state at the Home Office and was in his last job for less than a year, brings a wealth of knowledge to his new post, by contrast to Luce who freely admitted on his appointment in 1985 that he knew next to nothing about the subject.

Earlier this year Mellor's love of opera led him to strike an extraordinary deal with Labour opponents on the Broadcasting Bill committee, on which he was leading for the government. He persuaded Labour to agree to finish business several hours early to enable him to see the first of Pavarotti's keenly awaited performances in Donizetti's *L'Elisir d'Amore* at Covent Garden. In return, the government agreed to an early finish the following evening to allow Labour's Scottish contingent to catch an early plane to Edinburgh for the weekend.

Whiphand Most intriguing of the ministerial moves is the least publicised: that of the Tories' most assiduous backroom boy, the deputy chief whip, Tristan Garel-Jones. After eight years at 12 Downing Street, Garel-Jones was in a position to give himself virtually any ministerial post he wanted. He opted for the Foreign Office, presumably to travel the world with his Spanish wife, Catalina, in the hope that he will one day step into Tim Renton's shoes as chief whip.

The only block to Garel-Jones' further advancement has been his incurable wetness. But in departing his position of power, he has pulled off a patronage coup that has astonished his colleagues. Garel-Jones has now secured the reappointment to the government of not one but two previously sacked by Mrs Thatcher. First he



brought back Alastair Goodlad, who was dropped from energy in 1987 but returned to the whip's office last year. Now he has persuaded Mrs Thatcher to appoint the great poll tax rebel Sir George Young who was sacked in 1986 apparently for nothing more than a liberal inclination to ride a bike to work. There is no question who secured his unrepentant return. With clout like this, Garel-Jones is a man to watch.

A policeman's lot is not a happy one, but the Met has decided that the boys in blue should not make it quite so obvious. Six middle-ranking officers chosen as guinea-pigs are to go on a course, run by a firm of training consultants, that owes much to the techniques of drama school. "User-friendly body language" will be encouraged—no more flat feet, presumably—and plodding vocal delivery will also be banned. "Allo, allo, allo"—once more with feeling?

Snap-happy

Politicians have something of a love-hate relationship with journalism, but their offspring continue to swell its ranks. The latest to follow Carol Thatcher and the Lawsonian pair, Dominic and Nigella, is Rachel Kinnoch, 18-year-old daughter of Neil and Glenys, who has landed a holiday job on the picture desk of *The European*. Does Carol Thatcher, just back from an

assignment in America, have any advice for her on how to make it in the world of newspapers despite the drawback of a famous political parent? "No," she says. "I cannot give her any. I'm not the right person."

Perhaps not, but press photographers everywhere will surely be delighted to welcome Rachel on board, especially if it stops Labour politicians referring to them as "monkeys", the vernacular mixture of abuse and affection by which they have become known in the business.

Mere flannel

An old tea-towel advertised in *The Times* as a small ad for \$25 million? Yes, but it does carry the daubing of one Vincent van Gogh. This picture and a second on conventional canvas (on offer for \$18 million) have been confirmed as genuine by the police arts and antiquities squad after initial suspicions that the ad was an elaborate hoax. Van Gogh expert Walter Feilchenfeldt confirms that the paintings are listed in De la Faille's catalogue raisonné of the artist's work. The canvas is one of only three nudes the artist ever did, and was painted shortly before his death in 1890, while the picture of field flowers and thistle was daubed on the 19th-century equivalent of a tea-towel in 1887.

"They are genuine but these pictures are not the great Van Goghs. They will not fetch the kind of price being asked at auction," says Feilchenfeldt. Despite this scepticism, Dr Christopher Hertzog, who placed the ad and is acting as a middle-man for the owners, has received plenty of enquiries at his Portsmouth company, Marek, and arrangements are under-way to fly interested buyers to New York and Tokyo to see the pictures. Sotheby's, however, is unimpressed, and perhaps

riiled by any attempt to bypass its rooms. A spokesman said snidely: "The only Van Gogh you will find on a tea-towel is the one you can buy from a trader in Oxford Street."

Mouth of babes

Positively the last word on Nicholas Ridley. Local newspaper reporters in Finchley were warned by Downing Street aides not to risk Mrs Thatcher's wrath by mentioning the former trade and industry secretary's gaffe when she made a routine visit to her constituency. The reporters reluctantly obliged and decided they would have to make do with her light-hearted chat to children at Our Lady of Lourdes Roman Catholic primary school.

The prime minister must have felt a warm glow when one little girl speculated loudly that she was the Queen, and another asked if she was the lady they had seen on television. Finally she reached the occupant of the last desk in the back row, Jessica Knight, aged 11, stared her straight in the eye. "Who is Nicholas Ridley?" she asked. As a deadly silence fell on the classroom, Mrs Thatcher offered through gritted teeth a short lesson about the role of cabinet government and directed a withering glare at the local press corps, whom she suspected of planting the question. As if they would...

A dramatic finale to the British Open polo championship at Midhurst at the weekend. After full time, the local Cowdray Park side was drawing nine-all with Hildon House. Extra time was played on a sudden-death basis, but the deadlock remained. Finally the goals were widened and, to mounting tension, Hildon put the ball between the posts to take the title. Much more satisfactory than penalty shoot-outs. If it's good enough for polo, why not soccer?

مكاتب التحرير



1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 071-782 5000

CONSERVATIVE TO A FAULT

Margaret Thatcher's ministerial reshuffle was a small earthquake and left few dead. Like others over the past year, it was hailed as the "last" before the general election, and thus her final chance to fashion a winning team. Since last summer's reshuffle, two ministers, Nigel Lawson and Nicholas Ridley, have vanished. Mrs Thatcher wisely confined this week's changes to junior ranks. Who knows what black holes lurk as the summer progresses?

Mrs Thatcher's aptitude as a personnel manager is widely understood. She is a poor butcher, deeply conservative in her approach to appointments, who does not insist on "one of us" to compose her entourage. Any prime minister who can discard such ideological allies as John Biffen, Sir Leon Brittan, Norman Tebbit, Lord Young, Nigel Lawson and Nicholas Ridley hardly stands guilty of partisanship. While few of these were sacked, Mrs Thatcher did not strive officiously to keep any of them alive when the political skids were under them. She has, by contrast, retained in senior positions Douglas Hurd, Sir Geoffrey Howe, Kenneth Baker and Chris Patten, none of them ardent Thatcherites.

Unlike most prime ministers long in office, Mrs Thatcher has not built up a cabal of favourites. The nearest to a kitchen cabinet is the trinity of fiercely loyal officials in Downing Street, Charles Powell, Bernard Ingham and Sir Robin Butler. While political confidants have come and gone, these civil servants have stayed the course. The prime minister sits atop a textbook cabinet structure, in which business is done through cabinet committees supplemented by bilateral meetings and official channels. The model may be defective, short on specific expertise and political intelligence and imposing a huge burden on a few underlings. But Mrs Thatcher's dominance over her government is personal, not organisational. She has been less innovative as a cabinet manager than any prime minister for half a century.

The same conservatism applies to the junior ranks reshuffled yesterday. To be a junior minister, said Richard Crossman, is to be the lowest form of political life. These days, a junior minister must sacrifice earning power outside parliament to become a minor political

functionary. Rarely does a junior minister have the chance to shine, always the chance to commit a gaffe, as Edwina Currie knows to her cost. A junior minister has one ambition, to work for a better job, a task requiring a pathological fixation with self-publicity.

Mrs Thatcher has done nothing to change the nature of junior ministerial office: the long hours, the restless changes of portfolio, the subservience to officials and the sycophancy to Downing Street. There were 85 senior and junior ministers under Lloyd George in 1917. By 1970, this had risen to only 102. Mrs Thatcher has 105. No area of British public life has been so immutable. No attempt has been made to use the House of Lords as a possible way of gaining experience, or recruiting fresh blood into government ranks, despite half-hearted attempts by Lord Wilson and Edward Heath. Mrs Thatcher did try in the mid-1980s to recruit a platoon of "working peers" to the ranks of the House of Lords, then reduced to a handful of hereditary lightweights. This ended in fiasco as the selected tycoons and local government bosses realised that junior office was the most unrewarding of pursuits.

The chief change under Mrs Thatcher has been, if anything, in a reactionary direction, towards tightening the pre-entry closed shop whereby only loyal backbenchers are seen to have skills relevant to modern executive government. While the number of ministers has remained constant, the band of parliamentary private secretaries has risen from 28 in 1979 to 47 today. These almost-ministers receive no extra pay but attend departmental meetings and perform much the same public relations role as do their ministerial elders. On the first rung of promotion, they are less likely to rebel in times of controversy.

The truth could be that the form of cabinet government that emerged during the Great War and has continued virtually unaltered to this day was, by chance, the ideal model for managing a modern political economy. Mrs Thatcher's lack of radicalism towards ministerial appointments may intuitively reflect that. Alternatively, yesterday's reshuffle could be seen as no more than a game of musical chairs in yet another of Britain's archaic professional closed shops.

APPEASEMENT IN PEKING

China's rulers will draw one conclusion from Britain's ill-timed decision to send the outgoing Foreign Office minister, Francis Maude, to Peking today, sidestepping the European Community's ban on ministerial visits following the Tiananmen massacre. They will take it as confirmation that Britain is so anxious to oil the wheels of the machinery transferring Hong Kong to China that neither Peking's treatment of its own subjects, nor its efforts to intimidate Hong Kong, will encounter more than a diplomatically turned other cheek.

The government's excuses for breaking European ranks are the need to reward China for "positive moves" on the human rights front and to improve Sino-British cooperation in the joint liaison group which discusses the mechanics of the transfer. The first, given China's continuing persecution of "counter-revolutionaries" and "bourgeois liberals", is disingenuous. The second suggests a misunderstanding of the way the Chinese negotiate: the less robust Britain shows itself, the harder will be Peking's terms for "cooperation".

The timing of Mr Maude's visit compounds the miscalculation. The House of Lords has just ended debate on legislation to restore British passports to 50,000 key Hong Kong people, a measure sternly opposed by Peking, and Hong Kong is about to place a bill of rights on the statute book. This is bound to look like obedience to Zhou Nan, China's headline vice foreign minister and de facto ambassador to the colony, who insists that Britain "should always consult China" over Hong Kong policy.

The legislation is a direct response to the anxieties aroused in Hong Kong by Chinese repression. Far from emphasising Britain's sovereign right to rule Hong Kong and spotlighting China's violations of human rights, Mr Maude goes to Peking almost as a supplicant, to judge from Foreign Office briefings. He is to explain to China's rulers that Britain's aims are innocent: bolstering stability and prosperity in Hong Kong. He will apparently be encouraged

if the anticipated rebukes from Peking prove "fairly mild", and if China deigns to grant him a meeting with Li Peng, the prime minister who ordered the Tiananmen massacre.

This journey fits with a pattern of British appeasement of China. Since June 1989, China has removed key safeguards from the Basic Law under which Hong Kong will be governed after 1997. The promise of elections in the Joint Declaration has been reduced to meaningless. The jurisdiction of Hong Kong's supreme court has been restricted, the independence of its judges diminished, and an anti-subversion clause added which guarantees that China's promise of "one country, two systems" means two undemocratic systems.

Far from objecting, the Hong Kong government has pandered to China's paranoia. Films and television programmes about Tiananmen have been cut or banned outright. Students who escaped China have been denied Hong Kong visas, and demonstrators charged for petty offences. The governor's political adviser, in a letter to the Chinese authorities this year, cited these moves as evidence of Hong Kong's determination to stop the colony becoming a base for anti-Chinese "subversion".

This week, six Hong Kong campaigners for democracy are being prosecuted under a long-disused 1933 ordinance forbidding the use of loudhailers without prior permission, originally framed to curb noisy street-hawking. The peaceful sit-in to which the case refers took place in February; charges were brought only in May, just before the Tiananmen anniversary.

The loudhailer case makes a mockery of the right of assembly and free speech in Hong Kong's new Bill of Rights, and of ministerial pledges to Hong Kong's people. The prosecution should be dropped forthwith and the law annulled. That such a political trial should accompany Mr Maude's visit to Peking disgraces Britain. That many Hong Kong people believe the timing to be deliberate is an indictment of British policy.

A SONG FOR GERMANY

Few symbols can so unite a nation as its anthem. Few quarrels can so divide it as the choice of one. Germany, a country at the moment with two of everything, has of course two national songs, but even in counterpoint. Neither can be sung in counterpoint. Lothar de Maiziere, the prime minister of East Germany, has proposed a compromise: matching the merging of the two Germanies by merging their anthems.

There is no contest, of course, between Haydn, whose hymnlike melody graces the western anthem, and Hans Eisler, albeit a rufous pupil of Schoenberg, who provided the theme for the eastern. "Deutschland, Deutschland über alles", the first line of the first verse, has not been heard officially since 1952. When the anthem was revived in 1952, in preference to a variant on "God Save the Queen", only the third verse was allowed back into circulation. That stirring first line, which sung or not is inseparable from the tune, was actually written by a German liberal, Hoffmann von Fallersleben, nearly 150 years ago. But although never intended to be as belligerent as it sounds in the light of history, neither that line, nor the first verse's claim to territory "from the Memel to the Maas", strikes quite the right note.

So the western anthem has a famous tune but only one safe verse. The East German anthem, meanwhile, is by no means without merit. It was adopted in the late 1940s with words by Johannes Becher, a reputable poet who later became an indifferent minister of culture, but his prophetic line "Germany, one Fatherland" was abandoned in 1950 after

Stalin failed to obtain a united neutral Germany on his own terms. If a national anthem can suit, this one did: it was played without words until last year's revolution in East Berlin. Then newspapers printed the words for people to sing, and they opened their throats in the streets as the Wall came down.

Herr de Maiziere's merger would begin Haydn's tune with Becher's words: "Arise from the ruins/ Face turned towards the future/ Let us serve you for good/ Germany one Fatherland." Nobody should object too much to that, provided the words fit Haydn's music. The only real objection — and pedants must stay silent where national anthems are concerned — is the similarity it bears to the West German verse which would follow: "Unity and law and freedom/ For the German Fatherland/ After these let us all strive/ Brotherly with heart and hand." But there is poignant symbolism even in both parts of Germany singing the same things — the repetition here would not be without its point.

The Bonn government may not accept this reminder of the late communist regime of East Berlin. West Germany prefers to see reunification carried out under its own flag. But the events of last year in Berlin, when "Germany one Fatherland" became a cry for freedom in the streets, has given the East German anthem a new dignity and value. It, too, is part of German history, and an expression of the national longing for liberty and unity. Herr de Maiziere's solution is an elegant one which should please all sections of the new Germany and annoy nobody else — just what could be desired in a national anthem.

Potential for error on cot deaths

From Mr P. D. Coleridge Smith
Sir, A paper published in the British Medical Journal on sudden infant death syndrome describes some interesting findings that have been widely publicised in the media (report, July 13).

The authors suggest that infants nursed in the prone position and covered with excessive bedclothes were at greater risk of cot death than those nursed supine or on their side. Such a conclusion is in conflict with what is widely taught in antenatal classes and has doubtless caused much anxiety amongst parents throughout the country. Scrutiny of the methods and data reveal that there is large scope for error and the likelihood that the conclusions drawn by the authors are completely unjustified.

The potential for error arises since the data about sleeping position of the infant, number of covers on the bed and heating of the room were obtained from the parents of the dead child by interviews carried out within 72 hours of the death of the infant. No objective assessment of any of these factors was, or could, have been made. These data were compared with data derived from interviews with the parents of healthy children of similar age.

Parents recently bereaved of a dearly loved child, who would have had the ordeal of dealing with doctors, police and coroners, might well regard themselves the subject of extreme scrutiny, if not unjustifiable persecution. These parents might not be as objective as the parents of a healthy child, and might make conscious or unconscious efforts to ensure that any suggestion of blame was deflected. Therefore they might be unwilling to admit, even to themselves, that they placed their child supine, while before this paper was published, he has been taught should be avoided.

Similarly, there may be some bias in reporting the extent to which infants were covered. One

might imagine that parents may tend to exaggerate the extent to which a child was covered or the room heated in order to avoid any possible criticism that they had permitted the child to become cold, a much more widely perceived hazard than overheating suggested by this paper.

The differences reported by the authors between the bereaved parents and those of the control group were substantial: only one dead child of 67 was said to have been nursed supine, whereas 23 healthy children of 134 in the control group slept in this position. This large difference is crucial to the statistical significance of the paper, but the extent of the difference is unusual.

Previous studies have shown that many factors are responsible for sudden infant death, each exerting a small but tangible influence. The size of the effect of nursing prone is so large as to warrant close scrutiny to determine the precise effect of this factor, before accepting it as a real entity. The data presented suggest to me that an error of data collection has occurred, for which there is great scope in the design of the study.

The paper appears to demand a complete U-turn in the management of newborn infants, and yet is based on data in which there is great scope for error. This publication should be disregarded until more objective data have been obtained. There can be no guarantee that its contents will not result in an increased incidence of sudden infant death due to inhalation of vomit by children placed supine, as is suggested by conventional teaching.

Yours faithfully,
P. D. COLERIDGE SMITH
(Senior lecturer,
University College and Middlesex School of Medicine,
Department of Surgery,
The Middlesex Hospital,
Mortimer Street, W1).

Improving London

From Ms Sally Hamwee

Sir, Your leader (July 14) challenges Londoners to be more self-assertive in our demands to improve London. Maybe it's because, like every second Londoner I meet, I was actually born and bred 200 miles away that I do not object to some rebalancing between London and other British cities. But I do feel that there is a danger that London's place on the European stage will be a casualty of the abolition of our city's strategic government.

This is why the London Planning Advisory Committee, with representation from all the London boroughs, is with others (and with the support of the Bank of England, the London chambers of commerce and the CBI) undertaking a study of what London needs environmentally, to support business and the arts and entertainment and so on — to be both a world city and a home for Londoners.

Yours faithfully,
SALLY HAMWEE
(Chairman,
London Planning Advisory Committee,
Eastern House,
8-10 Eastern Road,
Romford, Essex,
July 17.

Legitimate grouse?

From Mr Derek Bingham

Sir, I might have found your leader, "Of pike and men" (July 14), less difficult to swallow had you not asserted that we "eat grouse then shoot them". Grouse cannot be reared in captivity. However, the demand for grouse shooting does ensure that their habitat is carefully managed, which is good for other wildlife and means that our beautiful heather moors are not swallowed up by forestry. Both government and conservation bodies acknowledge this.

Nor should it be overlooked that it was our shooting and hunting ancestors who planted the woods we enjoy now, or that modern-day sporting interests help preserve them from the excesses of modern farming.

This is one reason why we have more wildlife than many other European countries.

I remain, Sir, etc.
DEREK BINGHAM,
Gleeving House,
Essex,
Nr Woodbridge,
Suffolk,
July 15.

Legal costs

From Mr John Simon King

Sir, Mr Charles Martin's letter (July 18) is in many ways an illustration of the apparent defensive self-interest prevalent amongst many of our profession which doubtless left Mr A. Wigram (July 11) feeling cheated and powerless following his experience of his solicitors.

The simple fact is were more solicitors, large and small, to follow Law Society guidelines at the outset in informing clients, so far as possible, who would undertake the work, what that work is likely to involve time-wise (a difficult and often speculative point) and the charging rate of the person involved there would be far fewer complaints both public and private and far fewer people would treat the solicitors' profession with suspicion and mistrust.

Doubtless Mr Wigram heard from his own solicitors that there are or were no scaled charges

Shelter advertising

From Mr Anthony Leitch

Sir, To read Geraldine Bedell's article (Design, July 17) referring to the French bus shelters in Kingston upon Thames one would think that they represent the start of an era of local authority enlightenment. The Kingston upon Thames Society is more concerned than impressed.

Kingston Council was offered the shelters free of charge in return for the shelter company's right to sell advertising on the panels and to supply 30 large double-sided internally-illuminated advertising panels in the town centre, about half of which is designated as a conservation area.

There is now some embarrassment within the council's own directorate of development (planning department) since their old town conservation area advisory committee, on which our society is represented, has roundly condemned this aspect of the deal. This is because the council's own guidelines oblige the committee to advise against granting planning permission to install internally illuminated signs in the conservation area.

These extra-size panels are, moreover, aggressively styled in stainless steel and glass with hi-tech rounded corners, and look wholly inappropriate in an ancient town centre.

Yours faithfully,
ANTHONY LEITCH
(Vice Chairman, The Kingston upon Thames Society),
15c St Albans Road,
Kingston upon Thames, Surrey,
July 20.

Access for disabled

From Lady Price

Sir, Following Emma Nicholson's letter to you of July 17, "Arts and disabled", may I draw your attention to the problems of access to churches? This is in spite of all that was achieved in the 1981 International Year of the Disabled.

A friend of mine wishes to donate an aluminium ramp for a Wren church in London, as a memorial to her late husband, so that the physically disabled could have access.

Permission for the ramp has been refused on the grounds that the ramp should be of Wren design and material at a greatly increased cost to my friend. Is this a Christian attitude?

Yours faithfully,
ROSEMARY PRICE,
16 Laxford House,
Candy Street, SW1,
July 18.

pertaining to the type of work carried out and doubtless his solicitors informed him of their increasing overheads, but it is too late for Mr Martin or for Mr Wigram's own solicitors to preach at this stage when the correct point is at the commencement of the business relationship.

Yours faithfully,
J. S. KING,
Langhams (Solicitors),
Grove Road Chambers,
Eastbourne, East Sussex,
July 20.

From Mr Harry Flowers
Sir, Less your Scottish readers believe that Mr Wigram's comments about solicitors' charges for litigation have any validity in Scotland, I point out that scale charges still apply in Scotland and

Letters to the Editor should carry a daytime telephone number. They may be sent to a fax number — (071) 782 5046.

Putting a curb on the fast buck

From Mr Francis O. J. Otway

Sir, Any government should exercise close control over its expenditure and this country should be grateful to Margaret Thatcher and her early governments for bringing it back under control. But it is unsatisfactory that nearly all government decisions should now be made purely on the basis of short-term financial judgments.

Big business, which may provide significant contributions to the Conservative Party, may favour this approach, but the rank-and-file party supporters, who have the votes and also provide financial support, do not.

Our poor current balance of payments is at least partly due to imports replacing home-manufactured products. A main purpose of city institutions should be to provide finance to aid manufacturing industry. They should not be, what they appear to be becoming, mainly the means of making fast bucks whatever the undesirable effects on manufacturing industries — or even service industries — may be.

Many developments today require long-term investment. How can this be achieved if a company which is endeavouring to carry out long-term developments has to be continually on the look-out against predators?

While a few takeovers may be in the public interest, many are not. Government policy, with legislation if necessary, must aim to reduce the number of takeovers and mergers.

It is absurd for the Government to refuse to give any financial support — call it subsidy if you wish — to major new projects or

modest help to existing businesses which are clearly of benefit to the nation. We have seen too many cases of such refusals during the Thatcher governments' periods.

Examples include North East Shipbuilders; some parts of the Ravenscraig steelworks, whose capacity may not be essential during the current slack demand but which may well prove of benefit in the longer term; the insistence that all subsidies to British Railways must be eliminated in a short period, with the probable result that more traffic will end up on our already overcrowded roads; the absurd situation of claiming to support wind energy and then setting the rules to make the payback period under the non-fossil fuels obligation (which requires the electricity supply industry to generate 20 per cent of its output from nuclear and renewable energy) as short as eight years, on which basis hardly any wind turbines can be financially viable; and, the last straw, the refusal to give any aid to the rail link from the Channel tunnel to London and through London to the whole of Great Britain.

It is time for a change in government policy, to giving more consideration to the real needs of the country, even if it requires some modest use of a little more of the taxpayers' money. If the present leadership will change course, fine. If not, it is time for a change in the leadership.

Yours faithfully,
FRANCIS O. J. OTWAY,
Corvara, Coiswold Mead,
Painswick,
Stroud, Gloucestershire,
July 16.

Devaluation 'bolthole'

From Mr Christopher Jackson,
MEP for Kent East (European
Democrat (Conservative))

Sir, The idea (letters, July 17) that British productivity is so irretrievably a lost cause that removing the bolthole of devaluation would be a "national disaster", is unfounded.

The challenge of increased efficiency is huge but individual British industries, for example steel, have shown how productivity can be increased to international levels if we put our minds to it.

If within European Monetary Union with a single currency our rate of productivity increases were unsatisfactory, the facility to adjust would remain, lying not with

devaluation by a British Government but lower down, at the level of the individual firm's wages.

Devaluation is nothing more than reducing the nation's wages in international terms. British companies would retain full freedom to reduce their wage bills through increased productivity or lowering individual wages. The latter would be better for Britain than the inflation/devaluation cycles from which we have suffered in the past.

Yours faithfully,
CHRISTOPHER JACKSON
(Deputy Chairman,
European Democratic Group,
European Parliament,
97-113 rue Belliard,
1040 Brussels, Belgium,
July 17.

Preserving barns

From Miss Rosemary Thomas

Sir, Yvonne Thomas asks (article, July 14) whether it is "Too late to shut the barn door?" Certainly in this part of the world it seems it nearly is.

It is saddening to see how complacently permission appears to be granted for conversion of so many uniquely beautiful Cotswold barns for residential use. However sensitively this conversion is carried out, the result is far from the simple magnificence of the original.

At the prices paid for these buildings they are not destined to become "simple" homes. In fact, it would be more in keeping with their useful tradition if barns were converted into much needed

affordable housing for local people.

But, quite apart from the aesthetic considerations, and in my view more important, this wholesale conversion of barns must mean yet further great loss of habitat for wildlife — bats, swallows, the few remaining barn owls.

I know that some enlightened authorities are now trying to insist on more appropriate use of redundant barns. I do hope this practice will spread and that farmers and landlords will exercise more responsibility in their guardianship than many have up to now.

Yours faithfully,
ROSEMARY THOMAS,
Mill Bank House,
Winston,
Cirencester, Gloucestershire,
July 16.

Church maintenance

From the Reverend E. M. T. Underhill

Sir, Your leader, "Anglican Heritage" (July 17), is both perceptive and pertinent. Cathedral, you say, can and should look after themselves with the "pulling-power" they have, especially with tourists from overseas, whereas the parish churches "are in greater need than cathedrals yet less able to help themselves".

I do wish that we could get this across to some of the bishops and archdeacons who are increasingly taking the line that, as the Bishop of Durham was heard to say the other day, he was becoming less concerned about buildings, and feeling that what was needed was a Celtic cross here and there in the diocese around which people might gather.

Sir, fund-raising is difficult in the down-town areas (like Gateshead) and I am grateful for the help and encouragement your leader-writer has given us in the parishes.

Yours faithfully,
EDWARD UNDERHILL,
St George's Vicarage,
327 Durham Road,
Gateshead, Tyne and Wear.

no agreement to go beyond the scale is enforceable in law.

The 1990 edition of the Scottish Law Directory tells me that the rate allowed by the court is £40 per hour for preparation or chamber work and £44 per hour for advocacy. Legal aid rates are lower at £26.10 per hour for work outside the court and £35.60 per hour for advocacy.

Bearing in mind that these are gross rates from which all overheads have to be deducted and that legal aid payments are not made until after the end of the case (often in civil cases as much as five years later), Scottish solicitors engaged in this work are unlikely to emulate the income of the janitor of the Bank of England let alone the governor.

Yours faithfully,
H. FLOWERS,
Flowers & Co (Solicitors),
134 Holland Street,
Glasgow,
July 20.

Language learning

From Mr P. R. S. Galliver

Sir, As a modern-languages graduate of the Polytechnic of Central London, where the majority of lectures are foreign nationals and all lectures are conducted in the foreign language, I would take issue with Dr Bullock (July 12). Unless students learn to take notes and express themselves in the foreign languages concerned they will gain neither the confidence nor the ability to apply them.

Ultimately, the problem lies with employers. At job interviews, British managers with European responsibilities have either slyly admitted that "actually, we prefer to use English" or been taken aback by my offer to speak French or German.

Yours faithfully,
PHILIP GALLIVER,
15 Hayes Way,
Beckenham, Kent,
July 13.

Code conscious

From Mr T. M. Hagenbach

Sir, It might be a nice gesture to confirm our integration into the EC if we emulated the continental custom of addressing our mail with the national code before the town and postal code.

Yours sincerely,
T. M. HAGENBACH,
The Manor House,
Wrotham,
Norwich,
July 17.

Ancient hooligans

From Mr J. H. Kent

Sir, Mr Dods' letter (July 18) tells us that football was causing law and order problems in Scotland over 400 years ago. More than 150 years before then it was banned by James I of Scotland. "Act of 1424: Item it is statut and the King forbidis that na man play at the fut ball under the payne of iiii d." — whatever that was.

Yours faithfully,
J. H. KENT,
Rosemary Cottage, Coast Road,
Borrow,
Burnham-on-Sea, Somerset,
July 19.

هكذا من الأصيل

APPLETON HOLDINGS
'In Creditors'
Voluntary Liquidation

LEGAL NOTICES

**APPLETON HOLDINGS I
In Creditors'**
Voluntary Liquidation

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN
The Creditors of the above
Company are required on or
before the 31st day of January
to send in their names and
addresses, with particulars of
their debts or claims to the
Liquidator, Mr. J. W. L. J. J.
NH Cooper and R. W. L. J. J.
of the above Company, at
London EC4A 3NU, the Joint
Liquidators of the Company, a
sum required by the above
Company to be paid to the
Liquidator from the said Joint
Liquidators personally or by their
order, to come in and prove
debts or claims at such time
and place as shall be specified in
this notice, or to demand the
dividend.

will be excluded from the benefit
of any distribution made by
the trust.

Dated this 16th day of July 1990
In presence of:
John Cooper and RWJ Long
Joint London

**NOTICE OF APPOINTMENT
OF TRUSTEES**

INSOLVENCY RULES 1986
RULE 6 (24) (ii)

In the County Court at Colchester
in the matter of Leo Patrick
Gallagher of Leo Gallagher

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN That
on 20th February 1990 I have
been appointed as one of the
Trustees of the Trust created
by Lidgey & Sons Limited,
Road, London NW9 0BS known
as "The Trustee of the abovesaid
Company".

Dated this 18th day of July 1990
Raynham Laurence Rose, F.R.C.S.
F.R.C.S.

THE INSOLVENCY ACT 1986
AUTO-TRAIL LIMITED
registered number 161323

On 6 July 1990 National Westminster Bank PLC appointed Edward Baldwin FCA as joint administrator of the failed company, Rogers Marsh FCA of Plymouth Waterhouse, Liverty House, Edmund Street, Birmingham. Mr Marsh was joint administrator of the receivers.

Witnesses Dated the 13th day of July 1990
J.P. Baldwin, FCA
Joint Administrator Receiver

**THE INSOLVENCY ACT 1986
EXTRA SPECIAL VEHICLE**

(registered number 217694)
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the National Westminster Bank PLC appointed Edward Baldwin FCA as joint administrator of the failed company, Rogers Marsh FCA of Plymouth Waterhouse, Liverty House, Edmund Street, Birmingham. Mr Marsh was joint administrator of the receivers.

Witnesses Dated the 13th day of July 1990

[illegible]

FCA of Price Waterhouse, Linc
 House, 169 Edmund Street, B
 Birmingham, B5 2JB, as Joint adm
 inistrators. Accredited by the
 Institute of Chartered Account
 ant's. Witnessed: dated the 13th
 day of July 1990
 SRE HAROPA, FCA
 Joint Administrator & Receiver
 of the Assets of the
 THE INSOLVENCY ACT 1986
 APACHE LAND
 DEVELOPMENT LIMITED
 Registered number 2304320
 NOTED BY HEREBY GIVEN IN
 Witnessed: dated the 13th
 day of July 1990
 National Bank PLC appointed by
 to Edward Baldwin FCA as
 Joint Administrator & Receiver
 of the Assets of the
 FCA of Price Waterhouse, Linc
 House, 169 Edmund Street, B
 Birmingham, B5 2JB, as Joint adm
 inistrators. Accredited by the
 Institute of Chartered Account
 ant's. Witnessed: dated the 13th
 day of July 1990
 SRE HAROPA, FCA
 Joint Administrator & Receiver
 of the Assets of the
 THE INSOLVENCY ACT 1986

WITRUX LIMITED
 (registered number 2380106)
 of the HERBY, County of WY
 on 7 July 1990
 National Bank PLC appointed Ph
 to Edward Baldwin, FCA a
 Robert Edward Baldwin, FCA
 FCA of Price Waterhouse, Liv
 House, 169 Edmund Street, L
 munham, B3 2JH, as joint ad
 and as such, on 7 July 1990
 Witness: Dated the 13th d
 day of July 1990
 ERIC Munnoch, FCA
 Director and Receiver
 of the above company
THE INSOLVENCY ACT 1986
DECEASED CONVERSIONS
(MALVERN) LIMITED
 (registered number 1864357)
 of the HERBY, County of WY
 on 5 July 1990 National W
 Minister Bank PLC appointed Ph
 to Edward Baldwin, FCA a
 Robert Edward Baldwin, FCA
 Stephen Robert Edward Baldwin
 FCA of Price Waterhouse, Liv
 House, 169 Edmund Street, a
 munham, B3 2JH, as joint ad
 and as such, on 7 July 1990
 Witness: Dated the 13th d
 day of July 1990
 ERIC Munnoch, FCA
 Director and Receiver
 of the above company

Witness: Dated the 15th day of July 1990
BRE Hancock, FCA
Joint Administrative Receiver

FINANCE DIRECTOR
c\$40,000 inclusive + Car.
Royal College of Nursing.

DEPUTY CLERK of

LANCASHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL -
up to £55,400.

COMPANY
SECRETARY - Hong Kong
free accommodation Cable
& Wireless Pic - The world
telephone company Reuter
Simkin Ltd.

Pages 29 - 34
Pages 34 & 35

NO 2236

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5 Awfulness (4)
6 Mentor (4)
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Planting doubt about greenhouse theories

Scientists are excited about a missing link in a rare plant species that may resolve many vital questions, as well as having helpful modern applications. Nick Nuttall reports

A missing link in the evolution of the cycads, some of the world's most endangered tropical plants, has been discovered in the north Yorkshire moors. The series of finds from one of the world's special regions for ancient fossil seed plant-trees, may lead to a better understanding of how modern cycads, less numerous now than millions of years ago, emerged.

It may also help biologists working in rainforests to save the exotic trees and plants from extinction.

A missing link in the evolution of the cycads also casts doubt on recent theories of evolution that argue that the rarity of such links means animals and plants evolved through sudden jumps rather than by gradual change.

The finds, in conjunction with others from the north Yorkshire area, offer further tantalising clues to the view that the north of England's climate was more akin to the tropics 150 million years ago, raising pertinent questions in one of the great environmental debates of the late 20th century. One of the biggest issues is

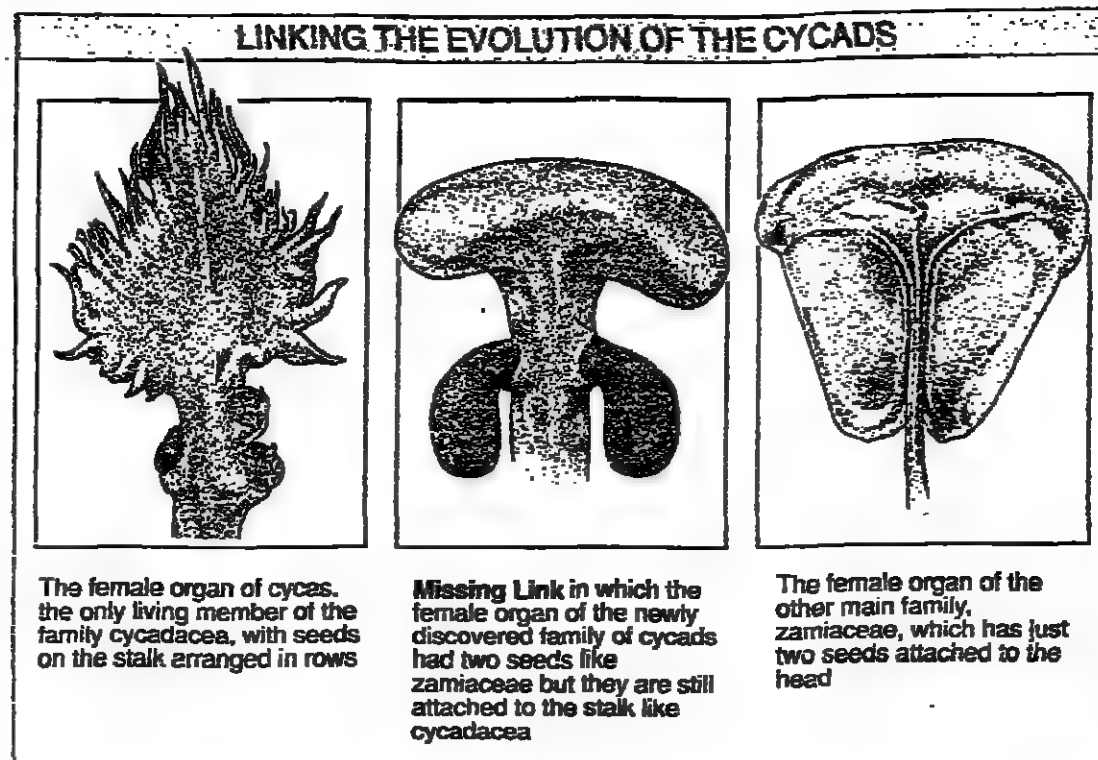
whether the Earth is in the grip of a man-made greenhouse effect because of pollution and the burning of fossil fuels or whether it is undergoing a natural climatic change as part of a vast natural cycle.

The finds, details of which were disclosed yesterday at a conference on cycad biology held in Townsville, Queensland, Australia, have been made by Chris Hill, a paleobotanist at the Natural History Museum in Kensington, London.

He has been fascinated with the north Yorkshire moors, one of the world's richest and most diverse areas for ancient plant and tree specimens, since becoming alerted to their uniqueness while a student at Leeds University.

Of the 20 fossil cycad "species" (meaning material such as leaves and male and female cones) found in north Yorkshire, about half have been unearthed by Dr Hill. Other finds, centring on the Jurassic period of the Mesozoic era include fossilised animal dung or pellets containing plant material, fossilised tropical ferns and fossilised pollen.

The cycad pollen of the Jurassic,



The female organ of cycads, the only living member of the family cycadaceae, with seeds on the stalk arranged in rows

Missing Link in which the female organ of the newly discovered family of cycads had two seeds like zamiaceae but they are still attached to the stalk like cycadaceae

The female organ of the other main family, zamiaceae, which has just two seeds attached to the head

which is being studied by Dr Hill using a scanning electron microscope, is being found to be structurally elaborate. Dr Hill suspects that studies of fossilised cycad pollen and leaf cuticles using the advanced microscope could provide oil companies with an improved way to date marine and land rocks from the period. The work has also led to the

discovery of another promising technique, which may have wider applications in medicine, dentistry and archaeology. Quality plant fossils are collected because the organic material has been converted over time and by pressure into carbon, but some finds are of simple impressions in the rock, bereft of biological material. These vital "footprints"

in time cannot be ignored if scientists are to understand evolution and to link the fossilised fossils of north Yorkshire with fossils elsewhere as part of an international campaign to re-create a global map of the world's vegetation millions of years ago. Scientists hope to be able to chart the effects of climate on

vegetation during global warming periods down the ages. Traditionally, paleontologists try to make casts of the imprints, using materials such as latex and silicone rubbers, but Dr Hill has turned to cellulose acetate sheets dissolved in acetone. The resulting cast, when viewed under the scanning electron microscope, is, Dr Hill claims, far superior to rival casts because it reveals more clearly such fine features as leaf stomata, the tiny pores that allow plants to breathe, permitting him to classify specimens more exactly.

He believes dentists and doctors trying to study the fine abrasions on teeth or say the structure of skin could benefit from the new method.

Archaeologists, studying ancient human remains for clues on diet, may harness the technique to study teeth to reveal the tell-tale marks that show whether their owner was vegetarian or carnivorous.

The discovery of the missing link, halfway between the two main living families of cycads, *Cycadaceae* and *Zamiaceae*, is in any case a source of great pride. Dr Hill says: "The female cones of cycads are very rare and this one is completely new. It was clearly a critical gap in our knowledge of their evolution."

Cycads, the only living example of the family *Cycadaceae*, retains the primitive features of the cycads, being taller and having

seeds arranged in rows on the stalk of the 5cm to 20cm long female reproductive organ, the megasporophyll.

The other main family, represented by a variety of unusually adapted living examples, reflects an explosion of evolutionary change in the middle of the Jurassic.

Surviving species from *Zamiaceae* are squat and palm-like, and the female organ carries just two seeds attached to its head, rather than to the stalk, in condensed cones. The missing link, which is as yet unnamed, shows a transitional stage between the two living families. It has two attached seeds but these, although having migrated close to the end of the megasporophyll, are still attached to the stalk. What this new family looked like can only be guessed at.

In the United States, scientists at the University of California are trying to "clone back" to life a tiny insect, which died more than 40 million years ago, using its preserved genetic code. Dr Hill doubts whether enough genetic material could ever survive in fossil plant remains from the Jurassic Age to consider such techniques for the long-dead cycad species.

Dr Hill adds: "What might be possible is the technique some scientists are working on at present, to try to get plants to recapitulate ancient characteristics, by mucking around with the genetics that control development."

Clothes fit for a cow

A SUN jacket claimed to protect cows from summer heat, insects and disease has been developed by a Japanese professor. The three-piece jacket, made of unwoven materials such as straw, covers the head, back and abdomen. Professor Masaki Sakurai says that cows produce less milk and lose their appetites when exposed to hot sun and that the backs of black cows can reach 60deg Celsius after 20 minutes in intense sun. The jacket can also protect cows from getting wet, which can cause diarrhoea.

Measle muscle

HIGH doses of vitamin A can dramatically reduce the death rate and the duration of measles, according to a study of a group of children by Dr Gregory Hussey and Dr Max Klein, of the University of Cape Town, South Africa. The World Health Organisation recommends supplements for all children with measles in areas where the vitamin is deficient in the diet or the fatality rate is 1 per cent or higher. The two doctors recommend that this dose should be at least twice as high and that all children with severe measles should be given vitamin A supplements, regardless of whether they are deficient in it.

Earthquake odds

SAN FRANCISCO has at least a 67 per cent chance of experiencing an earthquake that registers more than 7.0 on the Richter scale during the next 30 years, according to scientists from the United States Geological Survey. The quake that rocked the region last October registered 7.1 on the scale. Two years ago, the organisation predicted only a 50 per cent chance of such an

BRIEFING

event. Now it says it has detected faster slip rates along the San Andreas and Hayward faults than previously.

More black holes

STAR gazers report that they have found 13 massive star-eating objects at the edge of the universe. Dr Michael Irwin, of the Institute of Astronomy, in Cambridge, says the objects, known as quasars, are so powerful that they can consume the equivalent of a billion stars a year. The quasars are believed to be black holes formed by galaxies collapsing into themselves in the early stages of the universe's development, but are so far away that it takes their light more than 13 billion years to reach Earth. Dr Irwin, who has worked on the discovery of 13 quasars with Dr Richard McMahon, told a meeting of the International Astronomical Union in Sydney last week that most quasars appear to have been formed at about the same time as galaxies, or groups of stars.

Radioactive roots

WEEDS at the Hanford nuclear reservation in Washington have been driving roots through buried nuclear wastes and absorbing some of the radioactive molecules. Researchers investigating the problem say they have developed a way to inhibit the growth of the tumbleweed plant's roots for as long as 100 years. The inhibitor is an array of pellets embedded in a plastic sheet and buried between the ground surface and the waste dumps. The pellets release treflan, a herbicide, to kill any roots that penetrate deeply into the ground. Tests have started to find out whether the pellets could be used for preventing the infiltration of roots into pipes and irrigation lines.

MATTHEW MAY

The point about falling porcupines

The mystery of how porcupines survive life-threatening tumbles from trees may have been solved. Powerful antibiotics have been discovered on the creatures' quills, which may protect them from disease if they become impaled on them after a fall (Nick Nuttall writes).

Scientists have pondered why animals, pierced by a porcupine's quill, rarely become infected when other spine-defence creatures, such as sea urchins, routinely pass on disease.

A study of porcupine skeletons showed that more than a third had fractures of the skull, shoulder blades, ribs and legs. The researchers, from New York's Medical College and the city's Queens College, then analysed a greasy secretion

that covers the animals' quills, and found it to contain powerful antibiotics. Further evidence that evolution has sacrificed a porcupine's defence system in favour of self-protection has come from measuring the secretion's seasonal fluctuations.

Porcupines spend most of the winter in ground dens, emerging occasionally at night to feed. The amount of bacteria coating their bodies remains the same, but the risk of being impaled is lower.

The team, whose findings are reported in *Chemistry in Britain*, the magazine of the Royal Society of Chemistry, found that the amount of antibiotic on the quills reaches 20 per cent in the "tree-tumbling" summer but falls to five per cent in the safer winter months.

Fixed rate mortgages for first time buyers starting at under 10%.

First come, first served.

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هكزامن الأصيل



Old-style telephone pole: may disappear from landscape

Severing links with the old network

Wire connections for telephones may be replaced by radio waves

Britain is considering pioneering a telephone technology that could save the billions of pounds spent on creating and maintaining telephone networks. The familiar landmark of the telephone pole could, however, disappear with it.

Telephone subscribers would no longer have their phones connected by wire, but would use radio links to units located nearby.

Using pocket telephones, customers would have the equivalent of a cordless phone at home and be able to use them within 200 yards of their local base station — and all for the same price as fixed lines.

The move could also provide a boost for the operators of the ailing telepoint cordless payphone systems, introduced last year.

The technology centres on the local loop, the last link between the local telephone exchange and a subscriber's phone. This is a combination of underground cables accessible only via manholes and overhead wires reached only by climbing telegraph poles, thus making it difficult and expensive to maintain.

Experts estimate this part of the telephone network accounts for more than half of total network expenditure. British Telecom alone spends about £2.7 billion a year. The problem is exacerbated by the fact that much of the local loop is old and needs replacing, which would cost more millions.

For some time, however, an idea has been mooted that might not only provide a solution to the local loop problem, but also offer the opportunity to introduce more competition to the industry. Sir Bryan Carsberg, director-general of telecommunications, is especially keen on encouraging competition. The solution involves the use of radio links to replace wires in the final link.

The cordless local loop, as it is known, should be cheaper to install and maintain, and offer instant connections for new subscribers or additional lines, for example, for facsimile machines.

By being offered as an alternative to the traditional

method of cables and wires, some supporters say it would introduce competition to a neglected area.

Competition, while having led to an overall fall in costs, has been far more effective for larger clients and long-distance callers than for smaller users, such as domestic and small-business subscribers.

Prices on long-distance calls have fallen considerably, while the cost of local calls has risen. The issue of increasing competition in the local loop is expected to be paramount at the duopoly review in October when the government is to study the effects of competition on telecom services.

Advocates of the cordless local loop as the means to introduce more competition say it is a more sensible alternative to allowing two competing traditional operators.

"It makes no more sense to run two pairs of copper wire to a home than it does to have two alternative water pipes," says Chris Cant, the strategic planning director at Ferranti Creditphone.

Supporters of "neighbourhood telepoint" have received a boost. At a telecoms conference in Singapore last month, Sir Bryan confirmed he was considering the use of telepoint technology for local loop services.

"It would be a perfectly viable way of providing full service to the home," he said. "We are reviewing our competition policy later this year, and the possibility of extending telepoint to permit provision of service to the home will be considered."

Perhaps the biggest problem facing telepoint's attempt to provide the basis for the cordless local loop is that of personal communications networks (PCN). This technology, due to come on stream in 1992-3, was designed with the cordless local loop in mind.

PETER PURTON

Scientists may have found an answer to the long-term disposal of nuclear waste, David Concar writes

Progress in sea-dumping research

With effective methods for its long-term disposal yet to be developed, high-level radioactive waste is the bane of the nuclear industry. One solution has been burial on land, but new research offers a glimmer of hope for advocates of burial beneath the ocean floor.

High-level radioactive waste remains dangerous for hundreds of thousands of years, so its safe containment, whether on land or in the sea, requires multiple barriers. The first is likely to be a canister with a claimed life of between ten and 100 years.

The second could be a concrete vault buried on land or, in the case of sea burial, under the sediment just below the ocean floor. No such schemes have yet been implemented, and at present high-level waste is housed in temporary storage tanks.

One fear about the sea option is that when the waste eventually leaks out of its canisters it will rise up through the seabed and escape into the bottom water, where it could easily contaminate fish and eventually the food chain. In the current issue of *Nature*, Dr Sarah Colley and Dr J. Thomson, from the Institute of Oceanographic Sciences in Godalming, Surrey, report findings that partly allay that fear.

They have calculated the rates at which a certain number of naturally occurring radioactive elements migrate through sediments in the North Atlantic. For hundreds of thousands of years, the researchers say, all but one of the elements has stayed put in the seabed. None

has succeeded in contaminating the overlying sediments or bottom water.

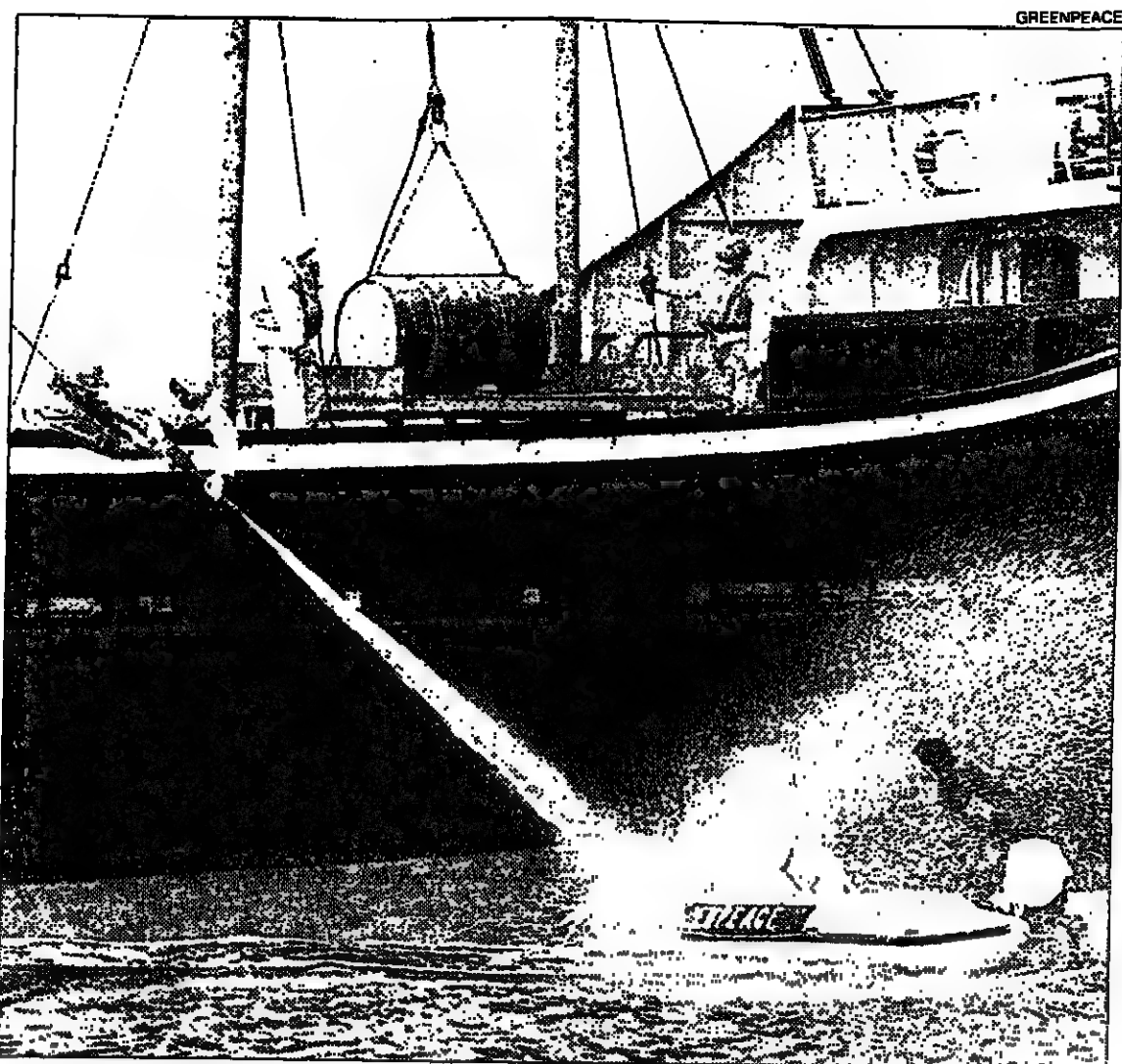
The researchers' calculations are based on measurements of the distribution of uranium-238 and the products of its radioactive decay in a natural deposit of radioactive material.

Because the sediments were originally laid down with uranium-238 sprinkled evenly through them, and because scientists know their approximate age, Dr Colley and Dr Thomson were able to work out whether any uranium-238 or its decay products had moved at all in the last 500,000 years. Only radium-226 showed signs of mobility, and even then it had moved at a snail's pace, covering a mere 20cm.

According to Dr Colley, the main value of their approach is that it provides a direct test of the migration of radioactive elements under natural geochemical conditions and over time scales appropriate for the containment of nuclear waste. She says: "It is better than doing a lab experiment, in which you take a piece of deep-sea sediment, bring it up to the surface and load it with a radioactive element."

Dr Colley emphasises that the study looks at only naturally occurring radioactive elements and that although some of these are also present in radioactive waste, other waste elements could behave quite differently. It is also impossible to predict, she says, what would happen to any radioactive waste if conditions on the sea floor changed suddenly.

At present, there is no national policy on the long-term disposal of



Flashback: hoses are aimed at a Greenpeace boat trying to prevent nuclear waste being dumped at sea

high-level nuclear waste and the government has no immediate plans to develop one. Current practice is to vitrify the waste, then store it in temporary "surface" storage tanks at Sellafield in Cumbria.

A British Nuclear Fuels official says that Sellafield could "cope with it for most of the next century, although many people think it would be much better to consign the material to a permanent repository."

But plans are afoot to implement permanent deep-disposal schemes

for low-level and intermediate-level nuclear waste. These schemes, which are entirely land-based, are being developed by Nirex, a Harwell-based company that would like to dispose of nuclear waste. The Department of Energy is evaluating the schemes.

Meanwhile, Dr Colley is investigating the suitability of an off-shore site, near Sellafield, as a deep-sea repository that could be accessed from the coast, although such a site, she warns, would not offer a "final

solution". There has been a temporary halt on the disposal of British nuclear waste in the sea since the early 1980s, when public opinion, and the National Union of Seamen, turned against the practice of dropping canisters of low-level waste from ships.

If public and political opinion can be turned over the question of burial under the ocean floor, as opposed to dropping waste in the ocean, any future debates on the merits of land versus seabed disposal may draw on the new research.

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Breakthrough on bone disease that hits women

Researchers believe that a new drug, which can prevent spinal fractures in women with osteoporosis, represents one of the biggest advances in the treatment of the brittle-bone disorder. The disease, most common in post-menopausal women because of hormonal changes that make their bones porous and brittle, affects an estimated 200 million people worldwide, including about two million in the UK.

About 20,000 elderly British women die every year from complications due to fractures caused by the condition.

Doctors in the United States have reported that the drug etidronate significantly reduced the incidence of new vertebral fractures in osteoporotic women treated with it for two years. Their study, covering 429 patients and reported in the *New England Journal of Medicine*, confirms those of a similar but smaller study in Copenhagen. Dr Nelson Watts, of the Emory university school of medicine in Atlanta, Georgia, who led the latest trial, found that the drug stopped bone loss in the spine and reduced by half

New hope for an estimated 200 million people worldwide

the new fractures in women taking the drug, compared with those given a placebo. In women with severe osteoporosis, the drug reduced spinal fractures by 66 per cent. Dr Watts says: "These are truly exciting results. The drug can be given orally and is essentially free from side-effects."

"It should be a welcome addition to the therapeutic options for osteoporosis."

Bone is constantly replaced in a natural process involving the resorption of old bone and the formation of new bone. Among the old, and especially after the menopause, resorption can exceed formation, leading to bone loss and fractures. The drug slows resorption, preventing further structural damage.

The first sign of osteoporosis in many women is a compression fracture causing loss of height and the

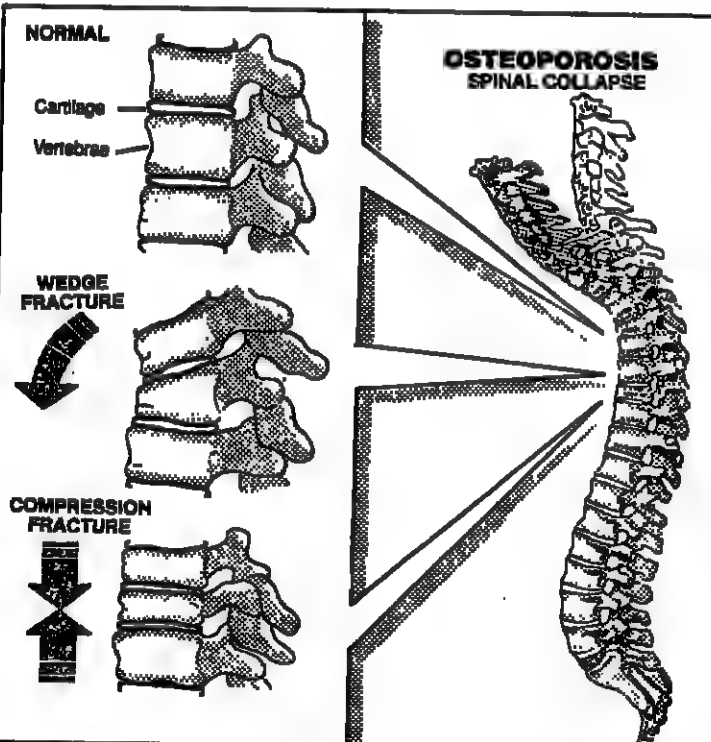
onset of the characteristic upper back deformity commonly called "dowager's hump". Etidronate has been used since 1978 to treat Paget's Disease, a less-common condition, which deforms bones and makes them more prone to fracture.


It has not been approved for use in osteoporosis in the US by the Food and Drug Administration, but its maker, Norwich Eaton Pharmaceuticals, a division of the Procter and Gamble company, said last week that it soon would seek permission.

The most successful alternative treatment for the condition is hormone replacement therapy (HRT), using oestrogen, which is produced in smaller amounts by the body after the menopause. Treatment is recommended at about the age of 50 for up to ten years and not later than the age of 65.

Earlier this year, the Office of Health Economics, which is funded by the British drugs industry, said HRT could halve the number of fractures caused by the condition.

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DESIGN



The fashion crowd at Chanel this week: many *petites mains* make light work as Karl Lagerfeld sketches and model Linda Evangelista smiles through the pins

The creation of Karl's couture

This afternoon in Paris Karl Lagerfeld will show his new Chanel collection. Liz Smith finds out what lies behind a £10,000 price tag

A crackle of applause will greet the first appearance of Karl Lagerfeld's new line, the Slope, at the Chanel show this afternoon. The Slope is his latest Chanel jacket, with a narrow-fitting shoulder line. A sign of amazement will no doubt come at the end of the show, when three of the world's top models appear in the finale wedding dresses. M Lagerfeld does not see why he should have only one traditional bride when he has three glorious women on tap.

Yet to understand what is so special about Parisian haute couture, and to appreciate what justifies spending £10,000 on an outfit, you should see a couturier at work on his last fittings in the days running up to the show.

In Coco Chanel's studio, high up in the couture house in the rue Cambon, the windows are wide open in the heat of a Paris July afternoon. M Lagerfeld is surrounded by teams of assistants, including two women who are furiously writing down his every instruction. White-coated *petites mains*, the seamstresses from the ateliers, come in and out with each creation. Gilles Dufour, M Lagerfeld's assistant, who works with him on everything he does, from Fendi in Rome to his own KL ready-to-wear collection, is in a pale linen suit with a tuberosa in his buttonhole. M Lagerfeld is, as ever, wearing a dark suit. The fan he picks up from time to time is no concession to the heat, but an affection that has become his trademark.

He sits at a semi-circular walnut

desk picking up black or red pens to scribble a sketch, or improvise a note to an accessory-maker, on a stack of black-and-white edged writing paper. Inspired by a bag with Chanel's new, fine chain he has just been handed, he sketches a shoe with an ankle chain. A squat, square album is beside him, decorated with tiny gold fans on the cover, one of several journals in which he pastes the photographs and makes the notes that are a diary of his life. Facing him is a screen on which are pinned sketches of the 85 creations he designed more than two months ago, and which the couture house is busy finishing. Each one is pinned with swatches of its cloth and trimmings, marked with a number and the name of the model on whom it has been fitted.

On the desk are trays of his latest animal jewellery — zebras, lobsters, parrots — made out of mosaics of colourful stones. A mosaic reincarnation of M Lagerfeld's Jack Russell terrier, Lord

Ashton (from *Lucia di Lammermoor*), is being pinned to a violet tweed suit. The perfectly matched braiding on the violet hound's-tooth tweed (from a Scottish mill) has been handmade by pulling threads of the tweed itself and twisting them into an improvised trimming.

The swag front on an ivory satin dress is being pinned and repinned on model Linda Evangelista by Mme Collette, première of the atelier *fleur*, a *trousse de travail* containing scissors and pins hanging around her neck. The hemline of the violet tweed suit is pinned by M Paquito, in a white coat with a hedgehog pincushion strapped to his wrist. As premier of the atelier *tailleur*, he has 65 workers underneath him. When a soft pink velvet halter dress with long tails elongated into a train arrives to have its pearl collar and waistband attached, the girl who is making it is brought in and formally introduced to the designer.

Alongside Mr Lagerfeld's desk

at Chanel are trays of the signature camellias in silk and velvet, in 20 different shades. Victoire de Castellane, responsible for Chanel accessories, has stacked on to library steps in front of his desk the new Chanel bags, in quilted velvet with rigid chain handles. High boots, above the knee, are being shown with everything this season, from the new empire dresses to the bridal finale. "Coco Chanel did not like these, so I am hiding them," he says. Polaroids are being taken of the final versions, with accessories chosen and pinned to the wall of sketches.

Shrieks greet M Pierre, the modiste, or milliner, who arrives with a shaggy violet hat. "A concierge's hat," M Lagerfeld says mischievously, as he does another quick sketch of a twist of chiffon knotted into a head-dress.

A set of oblong cards is splayed out on his desk. Each card shows the style number with fabric swatches, and spaces are left for details of the shoes, jewels, hat,

gloves and even the tights that will be chosen to go with each outfit. These cards then hang with the finished outfit, so the model can be dressed to the designer's precise instructions for the show.

The work of making the 85 outfits being shown is done in the couture house's four ateliers, where more than a hundred *petites mains* have been employed since early June. M Lagerfeld, a prolific and speedy worker, supplies M Paquito with five sketches at a time. "I do everything myself and oversee every last detail," the designer says. "The price of couture clothes sounds ridiculously extravagant. But no costing can really calculate these unique creations, that may have taken 350 hours of painstaking craftsmanship to bead and embroider."

In the end the real couture experience belongs only to the customer. The moment she lifts a dress off its hanger and steps into the perfectly crafted interior, fitted to every line and curve of her body, is something that cannot be shared. She will have stood for fittings when a sleeve that looks a perfect fit to the layman is torn out and pinned back, just so. A skirt will not have been shortened at the hemline, but refitted to the curve of the small of the back. At each fitting two vendeuses will grab the customers' arms as she steps out of a dress — in case the dress falls.

"Couture," M Lagerfeld says, "is easier than ready-to-wear. I think differently. Ready-to-wear is a reflection of modern life, but couture is a dream, a reverie for a few happy people in the world."

Coming up roses at Portmeirion

The Prisoner's village pottery breaks out into the world of export success

Susan Williams-Ellis was raised on the principle that "good design is good business". This was the motto of her father, the architect Sir Clough Williams-Ellis, who created the fantasy village of Portmeirion in North Wales — known throughout the world as "The Village" in the long-running Sixties television series *The Prisoner*, starring Patrick McGoohan.

Together with her husband, Euan Cooper-Willis, Miss Williams-Ellis has used her inherited talent to create a business which has just been awarded the Queen's Award for Export Achievement.

The commendation will be presented to Portmeirion Pottery in a ceremony at its headquarters in Stoke-on-Trent today for having recorded a pre-tax

profit of almost £3 million last year, with 45 per cent of its £15 million turnover consisting of exports to 34 countries.

Although Portmeirion Pottery is produced in Staffordshire, its spiritual home is in the Italianate village which Sir Clough Williams-Ellis designed in the 1920s. Miss Williams-Ellis grew up in Portmeirion and started out simply wanting to produce something better than the somewhat tawdry selection of goods the village shop then sold. Her husband remembers things slightly differently. "Sir Clough wanted to build and, finding us willing, left us to make money to pay for his constructions," he says.

The sturdy oven-to-table ware has an unsophisticated cottage kitchen look and the unstudied charm of a country garden — it takes its inspiration from antique natural history books and acknowledges the influence of great designs of the past such as the multi-patterned porcelain of Catherine the Great.

You cannot collect a matching set of Portmeirion Pottery. When you set your dinner table with its most popular Botanic Garden theme (which accounts for 65 per cent of the company's pottery sales) it should end up looking like a botanic garden. "Some flowers come only in teacups, others on bowls and butter dishes," Miss Williams-Ellis says.

The pottery is reasonably priced (about £6.50 for cups and saucers, teapots £23, vases from about £12) because it is not hand-painted and the decoration is added by silkscreen transfers.

The Pomona fruit range is produced by this method, with grapevines on the bread crocks and large serving plates, and berries, apples and other fruits on the coffee and teacups, pots, plates, casseroles and soup tureens. A complete set contains a cornucopia of produce from the orchard and vine.

At the age of 72 Miss Williams-Ellis still turns the pottery shapes initially on the lathe herself. She is a "passionate" snorkler who has been painting marine life underwater "since just after the war, when aqualungs were developed, using theatrical greasepaints before oil pastels were available".

Her work was originally much more starkly modern than the cosy, cottage, country feel which Portmeirion pottery has come to embody. The early Portmeirion designs, in the Sixties, were discontinued after the astounding success of Botanic Garden. "Lord Snowden bought quite a bit in the early days," Miss Williams-Ellis says. "But there was a great fashion for nostalgia — which rather maddened me because I would much rather have done my own thing."

The realisation that what was good business could also be good design was a crucial turning point. Botanic Garden was born in 1972 and was immediately hailed as both. So there was no going back.

Many people have since produced work with a similar look. There is Portmeirion-esque pottery in Marks & Spencer (the Ashberry range), Habitat (Jardin de France) and from Royal Worcester Spode (Stafford Flowers) as well as from Villeroy and Boch (Botanica).

Miss Williams-Ellis, however, admits to having become "heartily sick of most of it. I've done so much work on it that by the time it comes out I'm bored with it," she says. "We do use it at home, but I try to vary it. We are just shopping Pomona for a rose and passion-flower design that has been discontinued because no one would buy it."

VICTORIA MCKEE



Typical Portmeirion ware

Flavouring the spaghetti

From rainforests to tower blocks, the solutions to humanising Spaghetti Junction

Spaghetti Junction, the 30-acre mess of motorways and slip roads outside Birmingham, is famously horrible. A monument to Sixties engineering, it sprawls across the countryside, with no concern for the spaces, and people, below and around it.

BBC's *Late Show* asked five contemporary architects whether it could be reclaimed, and made attractive or useful. On Thursday, an exhibition of their proposals opens at the Royal Institute of British Architects (Riba).

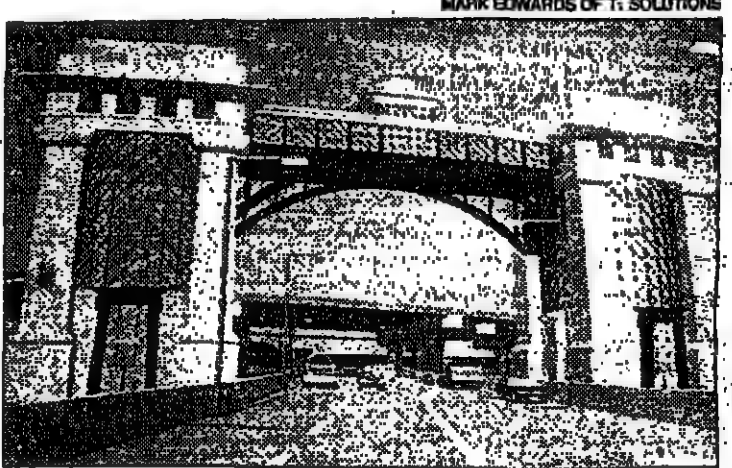
The architects ranged from the classical (Robert Adam) to the avant-garde (Melanie Sainsbury, former member of the NATO group); from a community architect (Ted Cullinan) through landscape architects (Pirkko Higson and Stuart Pearson), to a large international developer (Swanke Hayden Connell).

Their solutions varied widely. Higson and Pearson suggest planting giant redwood trees and trying to create a rainforest atmosphere underneath the flyovers. Swanke Hayden Connell favour building 16 storeys of offices and shops above the carriageway.

Mr Adam's is the most dramatic offering. He proposes building three classical office towers, linked by a suspension bridge over the motorway. Passing at speed through these would, he believes, be "thrilling — like flying through in a helicopter". The towers, he says, "would transform Spaghetti Junction into a great cultural landmark, from being an engineering landmark by default".

Ms Higson and Mr Pearson suggest constructing a 200-metre-high lattice tripod, which could be lit by lasers at night. They call it the Birmingham Gate and believe it would be a counterpoint to the massive roads snaking past it. But Mr Pearson says their concern was primarily with "the landscape as people perceive it". They decided the dank and threatening atmosphere beneath the junction could be turned to advantage, by creating a rainforest atmosphere — planting redwoods, irrigating from above, painting the columns, and having rope bridges across the treetops.

Ms Sainsbury envisages not redwoods but a service station —



Classic solution: Robert Adam's proposed office towers

"but very different from a normal service station. There would be none of that blandness that makes you feel you could be anywhere." She calls her conception Service World, and believes it would link local people with the drivers coming to it 24 hours a day. "It would be built on three platforms, looking like seaside piers," she says.

Peter Kirkham, who worked with Mr Cullinan on the project, talked to residents who had been there before the junction was built. "Nobody had consulted them," he says. "We felt we were healing a wound that had been there for 18 years. Our job increasingly seemed to be how to celebrate Spaghetti Junction as a sculpture in the landscape, and knit together the communities beneath it."

Their solution was to bring in the green spaces which lie to the north, to upgrade the canal running beneath, and to provide space for workshops and retail outlets along its edge.

Swanke Hayden Connell support the idea of a resident population on the site, living over the motorway on stilts. They came up with three options: a 100-storey deconstructivist tower block "a vertical urban city", two semi-circular buildings half that height

and their final recommendation, two curved buildings, the higher of 16 storeys, straddling the motorways and "responding to the dynamic of the site".

Was the project a useful exercise? With so many blighted areas, the junction would in reality be a low priority for redesign. But it captures the popular imagination, and the Riba exhibition may yet help the debate as to how architects should approach our public spaces.

GERALDINE BEDELL

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Oddball maybe, genius certainly



Playing to the camera? Spencer pushing a brush-laden pram around his native village, Cookham

As the centenary of his birth approaches, the works of Sir Stanley Spencer are fetching record prices. Clive Davis meets the author of a new book asserting that the painter was not the English eccentric of his popular image, but an authentic modern European master

As Gogh appears to have laid claim to 1990. Soon the caravan will move on, and it will be the turn of Sir Stanley Spencer. Ten years after the Royal Academy's retrospective helped restore the artist's reputation, the ground is being prepared for his centenary next June.

Activity has been gathering pace in recent months. The re-hang at the Tate, which put the Spencer collection on prominent display, was one sign of a shift in fashion. Another was the record prices in the salerooms: £770,000 for "The Resurrection, Woking Up", £1.3 million for "The Crucifixion". The centenary year will be marked by a retrospective at the Barbican, and the publication by Collins of a biography by Kenneth Pope.

The process is watched with some satisfaction by Duncan Robinson, whose handsomely illustrated book, simply entitled *Stanley Spencer*, appears this week. Robinson, the English-born Professor of the History of Art at Yale, played a leading part in restoring interest in Spencer in the mid-Seventies, when he organised a successful touring exhibition for the Arts Council.

His book is an expanded and updated version of a study first published in 1979. Aimed at the general reader, it sketches the biographical background, not omitting the now-obligatory references to the artist's unconventional private life in his native village of Cookham, Berkshire. But Robinson is eager to counter the familiar notion that Spencer was merely an English eccentric whose imaginative world barely stretched beyond Cookham's churchyard.

"The first book had the subtitle 'Visions from a Berkshire Village', which was not my choice of title," he says. "I was unhappy about Berkshire being stressed at the exclusion of everything else; I wanted to show that he was not just an isolated, eccentric genius,

but that he belonged to a mainstream of 20th-century ideas. With that book, the result was that to stress the artistic content, I suppressed a lot of the biographical details that do tend to bring out his eccentricities. This time we are in a more secure position with Spencer. There is not quite so much need for special pleading."

Robinson first developed an enthusiasm for Spencer 20 years ago when, as assistant keeper at the Fitzwilliam Museum in Cambridge, he came across a number of the artist's paintings which were being kept in storage. As a specialist in 14th-century Italian art, Robinson was intrigued by references to the Italian masters — "old friends", as he puts it — in Spencer's work. He now believes that, far from working in self-absorbed isolation, Spencer was influenced by the work of contemporaries in Europe and beyond, from Max Beckmann to the muralist Diego Rivera.

"I am convinced — more than I have been able to prove as yet — that he had access, through reproductions, to the work of people like Beckmann. Without the influence of the German Expressionists, for instance, I do not think the Beatus series and other subject paintings of the Thirties would have developed in the way they did."

"It is the kind of thing that needs a bit of detective work. Spencer's dealer, Dudley Tooth, was one of the most well-informed and most outward-looking dealers of the time, and Patricia Prece (Spencer's second wife) had studied in Paris. Spencer was not a great traveller, but he would have been absorbing influences through them, and through periodicals and magazines."

Still, the image of the quaint village painter will not be easily dislodged. Robinson recalls that although Spencer enjoyed increasing public acclaim before his death in 1959, he fell from favour with much of the art establishment. With international abstraction in

the ascendant, he seemed to belong to a decidedly minor tradition. It is only recently, Robinson points out, that a younger generation of painters interested in figurative art, has returned to Spencer — "as a kind of Old Testament prophet". Robinson believes that Spencer enjoyed cultivating his reputation as an eccentric: the famous photograph of him transporting his brushes and easel around Cookham in a battered pram shows him, Robinson says, playing the part to the full.

One other piece of conventional wisdom is that Spencer's work lost its intensity after the Twenties, once his idyllic vision of the world had been assailed by sexual obsessions and his memories of the Great War. Robinson is sceptical. "That period has been downplayed, partly because of Spencer's own remarks about not being able to recapture that pre-war innocence. There are passages in those late paintings of a breathtaking freshness."

On one recent visit to Britain, Robinson visited one of Spencer's masterpieces, the war paintings at Sandham Memorial Chapel at Burghclere, near Newbury. Now run by the National Trust, the Chapel is watched over by a lodgekeeper who hands the key to visitors who have ventured off the beaten track. "I had not been there for years," says Robinson. "It was wonderful. I sat there for hours."

With luck, Burghclere will never become a tourist shrine. In one of his last articles, Spencer's champion Peter Fuller mused on whether the painter would become another target for the spare cash that is washing around in cities such as New York. Robinson sees no sign of that yet in America, though London is obviously warming up: "I see quite a number of dealers who are good at gauging the market, who are buying for stock."

● *Stanley Spencer*, by Duncan Robinson, is published by Phaidon Press on Thursday at £25.

RADIO

Impulsive intellect

THE sparky and loquacious academic has been a fixture of radio for so long that it is tempting to believe that the BBC's charter contains a clause — the Taylor-Bradbury Protocol, perhaps — that requires a specified quota of such characters per broadcast hour. Radio pros are not necessarily experts, or rather not just experts, so much as ambassadors to the court of the public ear. Talking good sense in plain English, they provide a guarantee of intellectual respectability.

The daddy of them all was C.E.M. Joad, profiled in *Radio Lives* (Radio 4) on Sunday afternoon. Rarely has a previously obscure figure made the transition from lecture hall to recording studio with such effortless ease. On the wartime *Brains Trust*, Joad's curiously extruded (and widely parodied) voice betrayed no hint that he was aware of addressing an audience of 12 million. His lucidity and cogency were remarkable, and sound even more so today when those with the art of speaking grammatically watertight sentences off the cuff have become an endangered species. As to the content of his sentences, opinion was divided, and he knew it. Asked to respond to the question "Should we suffer fools gladly, and if so, how?" he at once rejoined: "Most people are fools and they'll object to what I'm saying."

Such candour confirmed Joad in his role of licensed churl. He amused his fellow brains in the studio, and provoked his audience. *Radio Lives* would have done well to track down at least a sample of former conscripts whose cerebella had been stimulated by the weekly huddle around the barracks wireless: this was inescapably a programme about the medium itself and not just about the personality of one of its most celebrated practitioners.

And what of the technicians who saw him perform as well as heard him? In his 1942 diary, Evelyn Waugh described participating in *Brains Trust*. Joad was "goatlike, libidinous, garrulous. I was delighted to observe the derision in which he was held by all the BBC staff. Even the electricians and photographers grimaced behind his back." Waugh would have had a natural antipathy towards a Hampstead socialist whose idea of a fun weekend was to invite ageing Fabians to doff their clothes, red woolies and all, and cavort hallooing through the shrubbery. But the point is: did this have any basis in fact? Did Joad enjoy the same respect as A.J.P. Taylor?

The most illuminating material on offer concerned Joad's pathological and chronic far-dodging — an odd hobby for a philosopher, but one which at least connected him to the observable world of cause and effect. In 1948 his broadcasting career was brought to an abrupt halt by the scandal of a prosecution brought by Great Western Railway. In order to protect the identity of his female companion, he pleaded guilty, thus depriving the world of what might have been his finest hour. "Well, it all depends what you mean by evasion." As a last resort, he could have pleaded that he had simply been pursuing his own train of thought.

MARTIN CROPPER

CLASSICAL MUSIC: INTERVIEW

Relatively diverse in their approach

Paul Griffiths talks to composing brothers David and Colin Matthews, both of whom have orchestral works featured in this season's Promenade Concerts

If David and Colin Matthews were not brothers, it is most unlikely anyone would think of them as a pair — and most unlikely anyone would want to write about them in the form of a double portrait. Of course they shared childhood experiences: a serious hobby of composing, and a passion for Mahler that led them to Deryck Cooke and thereby to Britten. They even took the same path of studying classics at Nottingham. But as composers they have little in common other than a very uncommon mastery of the orchestra, which perhaps goes back to their early start and the encouragement they received.

The other temptation, of course, would be to regard them as opposites: the traditional, symphony-writing David counterpoised against the avant-garde Colin, the former associated with the English Chamber Orchestra and the latter with the London Sinfonietta. But this would be as false a picture as the first. Here, quite simply, we have two excellent composers whose paths are divergent but by no means contradictory, and whose differences are no more important than their similarities.

David's piece, to be heard in tomorrow night's Promenade Concert at the Albert Hall, has the title *Chaconne*, an indication of the form based on a repeating bass line, but also a neutral cover. "It really is a chaconne: in fact, it's two chaconnes, with an overlap between them," he says. "But at the same time I needed a title that wasn't descriptive, even though in fact there is an extra-musical element to the piece."

"I wanted to write something in the English tradition of landscape

music, the tradition that stretches from Elgar to Tippett. But of course you cannot do that any more: we have lost that innocence, and there has to be some recognition of the darker side. I found something of that feeling — for the landscape and for the darkness — in Geoffrey Hill's poetry, particularly in his *Funeral Music* sequence. For instance, there is his evocation of the Towton battlefield, where thousands died in the bloodiest battle of the Wars of the Roses, but where now one sees only an English landscape. Similarly, my *Chaconne*, generally slow and meditative, opens up for faster episodes, including one of distant battle music."

"The piece is not connected to any particular landscape: 'I meant to visit Towton, but I never got round to it.' No doubt the visit would have been redundant, since this is not so much music about landscape as music about music about landscape. In that lies the loss of innocence, quite as much as in the inclusion of battle alarms. And though the work is not principally a response to Hill's poems, something of its character may be conveyed by a phrase of his: 'a florid grim music broken by grunts and shrieks'."

Just as David's piece is not about landscape or poetry, so Colin's is not about painting. If these composers share anything, it is a fair reserve about making too much of "influences". So for Colin the experience of spending a morning in front of the giant Monet waterlily study in the Museum of Modern Art in New York became something which, he says, "retreated into the background as the music progressed and found its own logic". His

piece retains the painterly title of *Chiaroscuro*, but it is a play of light and shade conceived abstractly in sound.

"I had been writing a lot of fast, aggressive pieces for orchestra, and I felt I wanted to do something more kaleidoscopic, with slowly shifting planes of colour. I thought it would be a lot easier, but in fact it did not turn out that way at all, partly because of the work involved in making something that wasn't just a great wash of sound."

Indeed, the score is scrupulously detailed, and if it is colourfully written, the characteristic energy and strained

containment of Colin Matthews's music are by no means abandoned. The first part is dominated by a slow trumpet melody, but the second part becomes scherzo-like and whirling, and the big final section joins together slow choral music and more dramatic episodes.

However, if this description begins to sound familiar, hearing *Chiaroscuro* so soon after *Chaconne*, the performance will only emphasise how little genetics have to do with artistic style.

● *The BBC Promenade Concerts, Prom 8, at the Albert Hall, London SW7, 7.30pm, will be broadcast live on Radio 3.*



Masters of the orchestra: Colin (rear) and David Matthews

CRITIC'S CHOICE: CONCERTS AND RECITALS

BIG BANG: Anthony Payne says that *Time's Arrow*, his commission for this year's Proms, owes something to the cosmic "Big Bang" theory, as the music travels forwards from one bang and back to it again by a different route. After the composer's pre-Prom talk (6.15pm), Andrew Davis conducts the premiere by the BBC Symphony Orchestra, and the American-based Dmitri Slobodkin takes up the challenge of Elgar's Violin Concerto, Albert Hall, Kensington Gore, London SW7 (071 823 8895), tonight, 7.30pm, £5-£12.

BARBICOLI TRIBUTE: King's Lynn Festival remembers a long association with Sir John Barbirolli in a Hallé Orchestra programme conducted by Norman del Mar. The gifted Steven Isserlis is the soloist in Schumann's Cello Concerto, and Teresa Cahill's buoyant soprano is heard in three Berlioz songs from his *Summer Nights* and in the child's vision of Heaven in the finale of Mahler's Fourth Symphony. St Nicholas' Chapel, King's Lynn, Norfolk (0553 773578), tonight, 7.30pm, £5-£12.

TIPPETT AT CHESTER: Sir Michael Tippett's Fourth Symphony of 1977, which he calls a "birth to death piece", is the climax of the first of three Chester Festival concerts by the Royal Liverpool Philharmonic this week, and John Lill is the solo pianist in Beethoven's "Emperor" Concerto. Richard Hickox conducts this programme and more Tippett here on Sat (A Child of our Time). Chester Cathedral, Chester (0244 340392/3), tonight, 7.30pm, £4-£10. Also RLP tomorrow (Russian music conducted by Alexander Lazarev) and Sat, both 7.30pm.

VERDI AT ST PAUL'S: City of London Festival ends with the admired Soviet conductor Yuri Simonov piloting The Philharmonia and Chorus in Verdi's *Requiem*, a touchstone of every generation's understanding of the art of expressive singing. Mans Gulgulian, Linda Fenne, Arthur Davies and Asge Haugland are the international soloists. St Paul's Cathedral, London EC4 (071 248 4260), tomorrow, 8pm, £4-£20.

TRIPLE MATRIX: A fascinating threesome of music-theatre works, all first commissioned by the Princess de Polignac, who put her Singer sewing-machine wealth to great musical purpose for her Paris salon around 1915-25. Robert Ziegler conducts the versatile Matrix Ensemble here, featuring a dozen leading solo singers, in *Renard* (Strauss), *Les Maîtres d'Orphée* (Milhaud) and *Master Peter's Puppet Show* (Falla).

Queen Elizabeth Hall, South Bank, London SE1 (071 928 8800), Thur, 7.45pm, £5-£12.

POWERS PREMIERE: Praised for his colour, boldness and clarity in recent new works, composer Anthony Powers has responded to a King's Lynn Festival commission with a virtuosic Cello Concerto written for Steven Isserlis, soloist in the premiere with the Orchestra of St John's, Smith Square. Stephen Bishop-Kovacevich conducts, framing it with symphonies by Mozart (No. 27 in G) and Beethoven ("Pastorale"). St Nicholas' Chapel, King's Lynn (as above), Sat, 8pm, £5-£12.

WELSH FRENCH: In the first of two Proms on consecutive nights, the BBC Welsh Symphony under their young Japanese principal conductor, Tadaaki Oka, play an all-French programme. Following Debussy's *Nocturnes* (which only the best orchestras can afford to tackle) at the start, Cécile Ousset is the soloist in Poulenc's exuberant Piano Concerto. Joan Rodgers and Stephen Roberts, soprano and baritone, join the BBC Welsh Chorus in Fauré's *Requiem*. Albert Hall, (as above), Sun, 7.30pm, £3.50-£12. Also Mon, with John Lill (piano) in Rachmaninov's Second Concerto.

MOZART FROM WARSAW: Sir Yehudi Menuhin conducts an all-Mozart programme by the Warsaw Sinfonia, including the D major Divertimento (K136) and the "Jupiter" Symphony (No 41). Emma Johnson, 1987 BBC Young Musician of the Year, is soloist in the Clarinet Concerto. Barbican Hall, Silk Street, London EC2 (071 638 8891), Sun, 7.30pm, £7-£20.

NOËL GOODWIN

VETERAN VIOLIN: Ruggiero Ricci celebrated the 60th anniversary of his San Francisco debut last season, and now he visits the Buxton Festival, turning his characteristic ease and elegance to music by Bach, Kreisler, Wieniawski and Paganini, with whom he is particularly associated. Opera House, Buxton, Derbyshire (0298 72190), Sun, 7.45pm, £3-£8 50.

RUSSIAN BY CANDLELIGHT: Dmitri Slobodkin, one of the finest of the young generation of Russian emigre violinists, has made his own transcription for violin of Bach's *Goldberg Variations*. He will play it in a recital shared by the cellist, Alexander Rudin, at the start of the Harrogate Festival.

St Wilfrid's Church, Harrogate, Yorkshire (0423 565757), Fri, 8pm, £5-£12 50.

ANCIENT AND MODERN: This is the title of the Sixteen's Cuckoo Concert for Youth and Music. The programme by this choir of female sopranos and male alto travels from Morley and Conyngs to Copland and Bernstein. Arrive early and have a private viewing of the Royal Academy's Summer Exhibition. Royal Academy of Arts, Piccadilly, London W1 (071 379 6722), Thur, 7.30pm, £4.

RYEDALE MISTY: One of Britain's finest young quartets, The Misty, are once again in residence at the Ryedale Festival, and start their cycle of the six great quartets which Mozart dedicated to Haydn. Friday's recital matches the K327 in G with Britten and Beethoven; Monday's juxtaposes Mozart's K421 in D minor with Hans Gál. Duncombe Park, Ryedale, North Yorkshire, Fri, 8pm, £5-£5.50. Lastingham Church, Mon, 4pm, £2-£5. Festival information: 0653 800666.

SCHUMANN IN CHESTER: The radiant-voiced soprano Lynne Dawson is joined by tenor Ian Partridge and Julius Drake, piano, for a 150th anniversary celebration of the marriage of Robert and Clara Schumann. Programme includes Myrthen Town Hall, Chester (0244 340392/3), Thur, 8pm, £5.

SOUTH INDIAN EVENING: U. Srinivas, mandolin, presents an evening of classical South Indian Carnatic music (Tamil is its mother tongue, Madras and Mysore its cultural centres). He is accompanied by violin, mridangam, ghazam, tabla and tanpura. Purcell Room, South Bank, London SE1 (071 928 8800), Fri, 8pm, £5-£10.

LOGOS MADE FLESH: English debut of exciting group of Italian musicians who specialise in the works of living composers. They introduce Cambridge Festival audiences to vocal music by Castagnoli, Scarpino, Garuti and Berio, among others. Sidney Sussex Chapel, Cambridge (0223 357851), Fri, 8pm, £8.

STOCKHOLM IN CHICHESTER: The Silverdalskoren, renowned for singing English church music in Sweden, visit Chichester Cathedral for a free concert of contemporary Nordic church music, including works by Mellnäs. Gustafsson, Nyström and Holmboe Chichester Cathedral, Sussex, Thur, 1.10pm, free (retiring collection).

HILARY FINCH

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REVIEWS

Building a sense of unity

DANCE

Adzido
Queen Elizabeth Hall

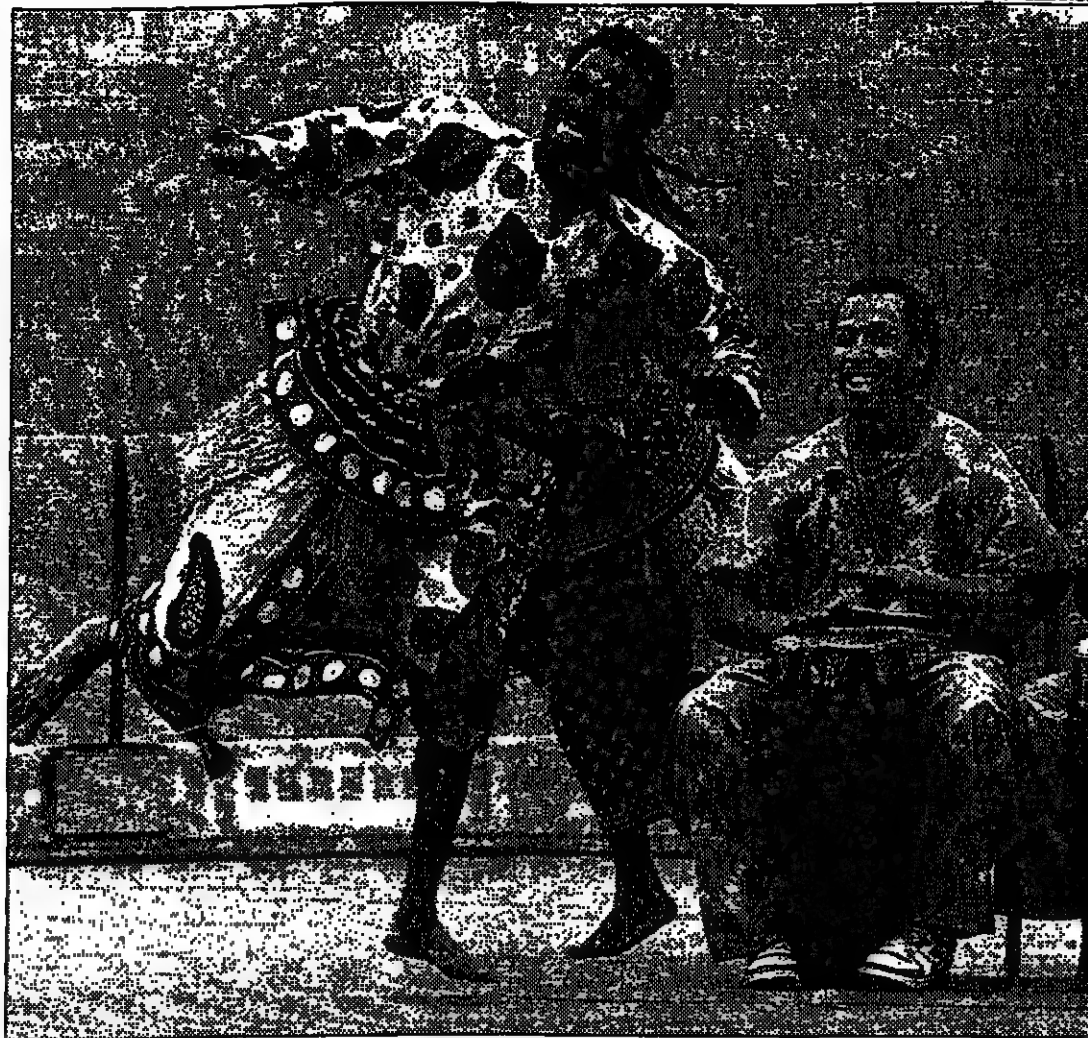
TO START a company to perform dances from, say, Scotland and Sicily, Norway and Hungary, Spain and Poland, is hard to imagine. So the existence of Adzido as a London-based Pan-African dance ensemble pre-supposes a degree of unity that probably exists more in cultural aspiration than political reality.

The members of the troupe are predominantly British born or from Ghana, with a few from the Caribbean or other African countries. Their repertoire reflects a wider spread of origins, with dances from Ghana, Kenya, Nigeria, South Africa, Tanzania, Togo and Uganda.

The new programme, *Under African Skies*, has found a much better way of presenting these than the company's earlier attempts at inventing a story to account for them. Poems by Odu Ofeimun have been worked into linking sections spoken and acted by the dancers, with help from a theatrical director, Graham Devlin.

Simply by the ordering of these, a kind of theme does develop: consciousness of origins, pride in tradition, hatred of oppression and determination to be free. This builds, unobtrusively but convincingly, to a statement that unites the dancers and had the audience at the Queen Elizabeth Hall on its feet cheering.

Some of the dances suggest that minimalism must be an African invention. The range of movements is usually small, the effect coming from the subtle variations of rhythm in the body and especially the arms. Exceptions



Members of the Adzido dance ensemble preparing for their appearances at Queen Elizabeth Hall

are Isukutu, a dance from Kenya, in which they hop like big, clumsy birds, and a number (the Sindimba from Tanzania, if memory serves) in which the men jump straight up and down.

The accompaniment is per-

formed on an amazing variety of drums, from low, wide and flat to others almost flat enough to hide the musicians. These are played with such energy that two chairs fell from the stand when I was there: one empty, the other occu-

pled by a fortunately nimble player who landed on his feet.

The South Bank performances were part of a tour which brings the company to Sadler's Wells in October.

JOHN PERCIVAL

DANCE

Romeo and Juliet
Coliseum

HOW odd of English National Ballet not to have mentioned that it was getting Peter Rice to make substantial changes to his décor for *Romeo and Juliet*. The basic structure of the set is the same but the cool open spaces have been filled in with extra hangings here, and some arches there, and a new front curtain to make it look more cosy, more conventional.

Consequently, Jennifer Tipton's magical lighting effects would no longer work and they have been replaced by a cruder version by David Mohr. As for Ashton's choreography, if he were still around, he would surely notice steps omitted or added.

When the production was new, five years ago, the company was at a peak. Few members of the early casts remain, but the authority of Nicholas Johnson's Tybalt (stronger and more arrogant than before) and Alexander Grant's

Capulet survive as a mark of what is missing elsewhere.

At both performances, the impression given was that most dancers were wearing roles too big for them. Josephine Jewkes, the matinee Juliet, is good at suggesting the raw pain of suffering, but there is more to the character than this. Laura Cornardi brings a wider range of emotion to the part but looks too grown up.

Maximiliano Guerra gives Romeo a passionate intensity and dances with strong although rough vigour but not very good lines. Pablo Savoye's Mercutio, on the other hand, is elegant but does not project the character forcefully.

It is kinder not to go through all the newcomers in detail, but mention must be made of the ignominy of having the page, Peter, played by a coy little girl.

Ashton's simple, swift-moving and direct choreography still makes its points strongly enough, but an early priority for the incoming director, Ivan Nagy, must be to pull the company up again to its recent strength.

JOHN PERCIVAL

CONCERT
RPO/Simon
Cheltenham Town Hall

IF MUSIC were literature, then Paul Patterson's Symphony, introduced at the Cheltenham Festival's closing concert, would have to be described as a bestseller: a thing devised to grip, shock and please, according to conventional canons of how these results are to be achieved. As such, the appreciative applause was far more pertinent to it than any criticism that it fails to say anything that has not already been said. In the world of the bestseller, formal imitation is not a flaw but a necessity, and similarly, Patterson's Symphony, if it is to work, has to keep reassuring the audience that they are on familiar ground.

Even the bombast may be essential. The work starts out with a grand, brass-led introduction, full of dotted and double-dotted rhythms, and occasionally, when the metre slips into 4/4, disclosing its underlying character as that of

a funeral march. This leads into what the composer describes as a "sonata movement", though with its snappy rhythm and ternary structure it is at least equally a scherzo. Then comes the slow movement, made up of heavy melodies dragging themselves free from adhesive harmonies and textures, and there is duly a rondo finale, cascading towards a disappearing shriek of E major.

It is in this last movement that the resemblances to Shostakovich become particularly close, in the hollow orchestration (with prominent percussion), the rhythmic style and the general sense of an enforced exultation. The difference, of course, is that Patterson has no Stalin holding a gun to his head, and yet he may be operating under compulsion of an aesthetic nature that is nearly as life-threatening. Or, it could just be that using the Shostakovich style introduces, almost as a by-product, the Shostakovich hysteria. Geoffrey Simon and the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra gave a properly rousing performance.

PAUL GRIFFITHS

PROMS

Belshazzar
Albert Hall

TRAITS that are supposed to distinguish one race from another are currently being hotly debated. So it is worth considering the alternative proposition suggested by folklore like the biblical story of Belshazzar. The proposition is that, far from having different characters, all nations are prone to the same cycle of predatory acquisition, decadence and fall.

Thus the ancient Jewish tale of Belshazzar's feast seemed entirely relevant to William Walton when he composed his oratorio in the 1920s. Barely a decade after the Russian Revolution, he did not need to convince his audience that kings really could be slain.

Equally, in 1744 when Charles

Jennens supplied Handel with the libretto for his oratorio, *Belshazzar*, he was also providing a parable for his own times. As modern scholars have discovered, Jennens was a closet Jacobite, and his libretto suggests covert parallels between the Jews captive in Babylon and the Jacobites repressed in England.

Indeed, the oratorio begins with a remarkable accompanied recitative, "Vain, fluctuating state of human empire", that describes the whole cycle of empire and ruin in graphic terms. Unfortunately for Jennens, the Young Pretender turned out to be no latter-day scourge of Babylon, while the Hanoverian succession has proved rather more durable than the house of Nebuchadnezzar.

Handel was a German Protestant; the last person to be expected to set this text. But he was also a master dramatist, and he saw the potential for astonishing

characterisations: the conscience-torn mother of the errant king, for instance. As Sunday's impeccably prepared Prom showed, the oratorio avoids predictable responses: the Jews react to Belshazzar's blasphemy not with anger but with a quiet unaccompanied chorus in which stunned repulsion is conveyed entirely by the minor-key harmonies; strong and logical, yet twisted, like a homicidal obsession growing in the mind of someone who has been badly misled.

Similarly, after Belshazzar's defeat, there are no shouts of conventional rejoicing (a weakness of Walton's oratorio) but a gracious and beautiful duet of reconciliation. Even Handel's treatment of the "writing on the wall" episode is unexpected: no apocalyptic outburst here, merely a chromatic succession of detached violin notes, tapping out Belshazzar's fate like a death

sentence conveyed in Morse code. Trevor Pinnock never quite achieved the dramatic excitement the work demands, partly because his speeds were slightly too slow. But his English Concert and Choir performed with model clarity.

Anthony Rolfe Johnson sang a credible Belshazzar — just the right hint of puffed-up swagger — and James Bowman brought considerable counter-tenor power to bear as the Jewish leader, Daniel. Arleen Auger did not give enough urgency to that crucial opening soliloquy, but her top register was a pearly delight. David Wilson-Johnson plunged superbly through the Gothic bass-runs of "Behold the monstrous human beast", and Catherine Robbin was characterful as the Persian prince, Cyrus, though straining to deliver the necessary contralto power in low passages.

RICHARD MORRISON

NEW RELEASES

L'ATLANTIDE (PG) Jean Vigo's anti-war epic, set in 1934 — a lyrical, quasi-surreal tale of newly-weds on a barge, marvellously treated with extra footage. Wonderful music by Maurice Jarret, memorable performances by Dela and Michel Simon. (01-437 8402).

CRY-BABY (12) John Waters' frenetic musical comedy set to the juvenile delinquency songs of the 1950s. The material with some wack before the end. Johnny Dingo, Amy Locane. (01-437 8402).

THE HUNT FOR RED OCTOBER (PG) Sean Connery as a Soviet submarine commander trying to defect. Fantastic post-apocalyptic climax. (01-437 8402).

INTERFERENCE (18) Bruce Laikins' portrait of repression in a Stalinist prison. Commanding performance by Kiyevskiy. (01-437 8402).

LOOK WHO'S TALKING (12) Intense comedy about an unmarried man and his wife. (01-437 8402).

BACK TO THE FUTURE PART II (PG) A study of the future to round off the series, with some amazing shots of the future. (01-437 8402).

BLIND FURY (15) Fully comedy-adventure inspired by a Japanese samurai novel. (01-437 8402).

THE DARK ANGEL (18) Horror action film with Swedish Rolf Lunden as a vampire. (01-437 8402).

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BBC 1

- 6.00 Ceefax
6.30 BBC Breakfast News with Nicholas
Witchell and Paul Burden 8.55 Regional
news and weather
9.00 News and weather
9.05 But first... begins with Belle
and Sebastian (r) 9.25 Why Don't
You...? (r)
10.00 News and weather followed by The
Jettisons (r) 10.30 Playdays
10.55 Five to Eleven. How 2,000 people
around the world made a tapestry about
the Quaker movement
11.00 News and weather followed by
Peaceable Kingdom: Gorilla. A new
American drama series starring
Lindsay Wagner and Tom Wopat about
a widow who becomes director of the
Los Angeles County Zoo
12.00 News and weather followed by The
Garden Party. Debbie Greenwood looks
at the O2, we look at Molly Weir's
garden and Robert Kilroy-Silk takes
Carle Lane to lunch 12.55 Regional
news and weather
1.00 One O'Clock News with Philip
Heydon. Weather
1.30 Neighbours. (Ceefax) 1.50 Biting
Butter. Tom Wopat's new comedy series
journey through the Midlands, today
reaching Shropshire (r)
2.20 Film: Legend of the Lost (1957)
starring John Wayne, Sophia Loren and
Ressano Brazzi. Curious, plodding
tale of treasure hunters in the Sahara
also competing for a beautiful slave
girl. Directed by Henry Hathaway

BBC 2

- 7.10 Open University: Nitrate in Drinking
Water. Ends at 7.35
8.00 News 8.15 Westminster
9.30 Film: On My Mind (1938, b/w)
starring Will Hay as a bungling railway
porter posted to a remote station in
the Irish countryside, causing chaos with
his two equally incompetent
assistants. Classic British comedy
directed by Marcel Varnel
10.50 Film: Saps at Sea (1940, b/w)
starring Laurel and Hardy. Our two
heroes, while taking a sea voyage to
convalesce, find themselves cast adrift
in a small boat with an escaped
killer. Directed by Gordon Douglas
11.45 England: The Gentle Sea. Thirties
press photographs of women's sporting
achievements (r)
11.50 Catwalk. A 40 minutes profile of
former model Celia Hammond, now
dedicated to rescuing stray cats from
wastelands and alleys with the aim
of reducing the number of animals
destroyed, said to be 4,000 per day. To
help achieve this she is setting up
low-cost clinics for spraying and
neutering (r). (Ceefax)
12.30 Of Gods and Men: Mexico and the
Mexican Indian. A look at the centuries-
old traditions of the Mexican Indians
and their contribution to the culture of
central American civilisations.
Narrated by Ian McEwan (r)
1.00 Under Sail. The Cutty Sark Tall
Ship Race from Margate to Zebruggie,
filmed from the deck of the square
rigged Royalist (r)
1.20 Charlie Chalk. Animation (r) 1.35
Sign Extra. Singer/songwriter Don
Sullivan talks about emigrant life.
Adapted for the hearing impaired (r)
2.00 News and weather followed by The
Black Safari. Parody episode of The
World About Us. In which

- 4.05 Cartoon 4.10 The All New Poppy
Show 4.35 The Really Wild Show.
Winner of the 1989 Beifa award for
the best children's educational
programme. Featured this week are
American police uniforms, a synthesiser,
a 25-hour alarm clock and a Buck.
5.00 Newsround 5.05 Come Midnight
Monday. Episode five of the seven-part
Australian children's drama series (r)
5.35 Neighbours. (Ceefax) 5.40 Inside Usher
6.00 Six O'Clock News with Andrew
Harvey and Jill Dando. Weather
6.30 Regional news magazines.
Northern Ireland: Neighbours
7.00 Last of the Summer Wine: The Kiss
and Mavis Poskitt. Adventures of the
incomparable old codgers. Clegg is
alarmed when Edie and Nora start to
take more than a passing interest in
him, especially when he hears that they
have a friend in need of a husband
(r). (Ceefax)
7.30 EastEnders. Another dose of
Cookery and Ceefax
8.00 To the Manor Born: Birds and the
Bee. A series of new noveaux riche
landed gentry comedy starring Peter
Bewley and Penelope Keith. This week
Audrey turns the visit of a rare bird
to her advantage (r). (Ceefax)
8.30 Carnival Street: Netta's Story.
Series following the lives of five black
families in the month leading up to
the Notting Hill carnival. Mother, mini-
cab driver, poet, singer and shop-
owner. Netta is under a lot of pressure,
not only because of her many

- responsibilities but also because of the
tension in the All Saints Road
community, with its heavy police
presence. One word out of place, or
a foot wrong, can result in grief (Ceefax)
9.00 Nine O'Clock News. With Martin
Lewis. Regional news and weather
9.30 Film: I Know My First Name is
Steven (1989) starring Cindy Pickett,
Conin Nemes and John Asher. First
of a two-part feature-length film (part
two tomorrow) about a true,
and truly horrifying, story - the
abduction, imprisonment and
psychological and sexual abuse, for
seven years, of a seven-year-old
California boy, Steven Stryker. On his
way home on December 4, 1972,
Steven was abducted by Ken Parnell
and his accomplice. Though they
kept the boy imprisoned for seven years
in an old log cabin deep in the
forests, and systematically abused him
night and day. The film, not for the
faint-hearted, is a gripping and
psychological story and that of his parents,
who not only had to cope with losing their
son but also with the suspicion that
eventually fell on them. Perhaps the
most poignant fact about this strong
documentary is that the victim, Steven,
shortly after his escape, is playing a
police officer. Directed by Larry Elikson.
(Ceefax)
11.05 Judy, Frank and Dean. A must for
fans of Garland, "The Blue Eyes" and
Dean. This is the first of a three-part
showpiece episode from Garland's
television series of the 1950s
11.55 Weather

- 9.30 Present Imperfect: Great
Expectations.
Peter Gordon's documentary
parallels the great ideas of 1989 history
with the more modest notions of
family life. In doing so, he highly
significant point is made beyond the
fact that, for the parties concerned,
producing a baby is as momentous
an event as the stormy-sea meeting
between Bush and Gorbachev, the
flight of East Germans into Hungary, and
the massacre in Tiananmen Square.
The big headlines are being made
while three babies are waiting to be born
in the same London hospital. One
smaller headline tells of the Hampshire
fruit farmer who fought off the
strawberry-picking crowds with a Soviet
tank. From this, you will infer that
Great Expectations does not bring out
its message on a big drum. (Ceefax)
10.30 Newsnight
11.15 Archipelago. The wild stunts of the
French alternative cinema, featuring
motorcycles, chainsaws and tort-
trapezes, recorded at last year's
Edinburgh International Festival (r)
12.00 Open University: Social Problems
and Social Welfare. Ends at 12.30am

ITV LONDON

- 6.00 TV-am
9.25 He-Man and the Masters of the
Universe. Animated science fiction
adventure (r) 9.50 Thames News
and weather 9.55 Inspector Gadget.
Cartoon adventures of an inept
detective (r) 10.25 Vicky the Viking
10.50 News headlines
10.55 The Adventures of Black Beauty.
Drama series based on the novel by
Anna Sewell 11.25 Just for the
Record. A look at the lengths people are
prepared to go to get into the record
books 11.55 Tube Mice (r)
12.05 Rod, Jane and Freddy (r) 12.25
Home and Away 12.55 Thames News
and weather
1.00 News at One with Nicholas Owen.
Weather
1.20 Coronation Street (r) 1.50 A
Country Practice. Australian medical
drama set around a country
health clinic 2.20 Take the High Road.
Drama series set in the Highland
community of Glendochan
2.50 What's My Line? Odd occupations
panel game. This afternoon Roy Hudd
and Jilly Cooper are joined by Louise
Plowright and George Marshall 3.15
News headlines 3.20 Thames
News and weather 3.25 Families. Soap
set in England and Australia
3.55 Turn of Mind. Children's
adventure series (r) 4.20 Under the
Bedclothes. Book series for young
people. Creepy crawlies provide the
subject for Dr Laurence Mound's new
book The Eyewitness Guide to
Insects. Presented by Carolyn
Marshall 4.45 Scooby-Doo (r)
5.10 Blockbusters
5.40 News with Fiona Armstrong.
Weather
5.55 Thames Help with news of croquet
which is enjoying amazing popularity in
Tower Hamlets

- 6.00 Home and Away (r)
6.30 Thames News and weather
6.50 Emmerdale. Topical drama set in a
Yorkshire farming community. (Oracle)
7.30 Night Duty. The third in the series
about people who work unsocial hours
follows two doctors on night duty
8.00 The Bill: Angles. The strong-willed
and tightly directed police drama
continues to set an amazingly high
standard. Motives comes under scrutiny
- does the force have a strong
sense of justice or just a strong sense of
frustration? (Oracle)
8.30 The Upper Hand. Unscripted British
version of American comedy series
Who's the Boss?
8.50 Made in Heaven: Best of Enemies.
Most of, but mercifully not all, the
television set-ups of any discernible
quality have now perched their bags
and gone off on their summer hols.
Granada Television's new series
about a wedding agency is one of the
stay-at-homes, and we should
gratefully make the most of it for the
next four weeks. Best of Enemies
today's curtain-raiser, was penned by
Alan Cleeves. He has ingeniously
stitched together two situations, one of
them rather touching - an elderly
chap (Norman Corbett) wants to
recreate a 1941 ambience so that he

- can marry the woman (Elizabeth Sellar)
he would have wed if the war hadn't
intervened. The other one is rather
ridiculous: a trivia-maniac
womaniser (Keith Barron) is planning to
make it four (Kitty Aldridge) while
two of his ex-wives plot like mad to put a
spanner in the works (Oracle)
10.00 News at Ten with Sandy Gall and
Trevor McDonald 10.30 Thames News
and weather
10.35 Viewpoint 90: Murder.
Central insists that this murder
hunt documentary makes history
because television caused the murder
never before been permitted to dog the
police as they pursue their prey, and
stand alongside them as they review
their progress and contemplate their
next moves. Certainly, no other fly-on-
the-wall piece investigated a murder
without a single simulated sequence,
comes to mind. Furthermore, Mike
Morley's film breaks even more new
ground by actually getting ahead of the
police at one stage, snatching a
through-the-cell-door confession
from one of the five men (three of them
has nephews) accused of the murder
of an Asian father of six. But not even
Central will claim that it has
produced a complete dossier on Crown
Case No 681883. Ten thousand
hours of detective work went into it, plus
3,000 hours of police overtime
11.35 Prisoner: Cell Block H
12.30am Room for Change. Decorating
series (r)
1.00 Video View
1.30 Kojak: By Silence Betrayed. When
Kojak attempts to solve a murder on the
docks he is hampered by the
greivous lack of evidence
2.30 Donahue. Phil Donahue talks to gay
and lesbian couples on their attitudes to
love
3.30 Quiz Night
4.00 Entertainment UK
5.00 ITN Morning News with Phil Roman.
Ends at 6.00

- 5.00 The Lone Ranger (b/w). Vintage
adventure. The English Schools Milk
Track and Field Championships from
the Moorways Athletics Track in
Derby
6.00 Sumo. Japanese wrestling (r)
6.30 Mork and Mindy. Comedy series
7.00 Channel 4 News with Jon Snow and
Zanab Badawi
7.50 Comment followed by Weather
8.00 Citizen 2000. Continuing the series
of documentaries about the lives of
children born in 1982. Matthew, the
son of two school teachers from
Liverpool, is seen here on his first
day at junior school. (Oracle)
8.30 Check Out. Investigative automatic
cash dispensers and the new system by
which GPs can be chosen for the list
of services they have available
9.00 A Drame of a Mess.
Dermot Mulroney's investigative
documentary will be milk and honey for
satirists and scandal lovers
alike. It was President Bush who used
the metaphor of the mammoth
collapse of America's savings and
loans industry (the equivalent of our
building societies) whose
investments were underwritten by the
federal government. Taxpayers now
have to pick up the bill for \$500 billion -
four times what the Vietnam war
cost the Americans - and charges of
fraud or embezzlement have been
brought against several heads of
savings and loan companies,
including one who is accused of using

- company cash to purchase a \$2
million beach house and a luxury yacht.
The political dimension to the
scandal is not inconsiderable. It is
alleged that a lot of the savings and
loans cash poured into party funds, and
trickled into Capitol Hill pockets
10.00 Sticky Moments with Julian Clary.
Game show (r)
10.50 Jazz on a Summer's Night:
Sophisticated Lady. Featuring jazz
singer Adelaide Hall in concert
12.00am In Justice. A quartet of animated
films which take women and the law as
their themes (r)
12.55 Gipsy Kings in concert at the Royal
Albert Hall (r)
1.55 L'Existence d'Holocauste. French
animated film, briefly telling the story of
a life 2.00 The Play. Yugoslavian
cartoon parable from Dusan Vukotic
2.15 The End. Student animation from the
US 2.25 Matter. Cartoon from British
animation students. Ends at 2.30

- 6.00 Noah's Ark. Forests that grow under
the sea (r)
6.20 Business Daily
6.30 The Channel Four Daily
9.25 The Art of Landscape. Footage of
breath-taking scenery set to a soothing
musical background
11.00 As It Happens. Andy Kershaw and
his intrepid camera crew are still behind
bars, filming a typical day in the life
of the staff and inmates of Wormwood
Scrub
12.00 The Political Programme. Neil
Kinnock takes a sideways look at the
past 12 months in Parliament
12.30 Business Daily. Financial and
business news service
1.00 Sesame Street. American pre-
school educational series (r)
2.00 Film: Pardon My French (1984, b/w)
starring Philip Dorn, Brenda Marshall
and George Sanders. Efficient
wartime thriller about a Parisian doctor,
head of the local resistance cell, and
his friends and colleagues whose
difficult lives on how the Nazi
occupation forces should be treated
lead to conflict. Directed in
Hollywood by expatriate Frenchman
Lloyd Moguy
3.35 Barnaby: Father Dear Father.
Cartoon
3.40 The Oprah Winfrey Show: True
Romance. Couples share their romantic
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4.30 Countdown presented by Richard
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continues to set an amazingly high
standard. Motives comes under scrutiny
- does the force have a strong
sense of justice or just a strong sense of
frustration? (Oracle)
8.30 The Upper Hand. Unscripted British
version of American comedy series
Who's the Boss?
8.50 Made in Heaven: Best of Enemies.
Most of, but mercifully not all, the
television set-ups of any discernible
quality have now perched their bags
and gone off on their summer hols.
Granada Television's new series
about a wedding agency is one of the
stay-at-homes, and we should
gratefully make the most of it for the
next four weeks. Best of Enemies
today's curtain-raiser, was penned by
Alan Cleeves. He has ingeniously
stitched together two situations, one of
them rather touching - an elderly
chap (Norman Corbett) wants to
recreate a 1941 ambience so that he

- 6.00 Noah's Ark. Forests that grow under
the sea (r)
6.20 Business Daily
6.30 The Channel Four Daily
9.25 The Art of Landscape. Footage of
breath-taking scenery set to a soothing
musical background
11.00 As It Happens. Andy Kershaw and
his intrepid camera crew are still behind
bars, filming a typical day in the life
of the staff and inmates of Wormwood
Scrub
12.00 The Political Programme. Neil
Kinnock takes a sideways look at the
past 12 months in Parliament
12.30 Business Daily. Financial and
business news service
1.00 Sesame Street. American pre-
school educational series (r)
2.00 Film: Pardon My French (1984, b/w)
starring Philip Dorn, Brenda Marshall
and George Sanders. Efficient
wartime thriller about a Parisian doctor,
head of the local resistance cell, and
his friends and colleagues whose
difficult lives on how the Nazi
occupation forces should be treated
lead to conflict. Directed in
Hollywood by expatriate Frenchman
Lloyd Moguy
3.35 Barnaby: Father Dear Father.
Cartoon
3.40 The Oprah Winfrey Show: True
Romance. Couples share their romantic
memories.
4.30 Countdown presented by Richard
Whitley

- 6.00 Home and Away (r)
6.30 Thames News and weather
6.50 Emmerdale. Topical drama set in a
Yorkshire farming community. (Oracle)
7.30 Night Duty. The third in the series
about people who work unsocial hours
follows two doctors on night duty
8.00 The Bill: Angles. The strong-willed
and tightly directed police drama
continues to set an amazingly high
standard. Motives comes under scrutiny
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stitched together two situations, one of
them rather touching - an elderly
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RADIO 1

- FM Stereo and MW
6.00am Jukebox 6.30 Simon
May 6.50am News 11.00 The Radio 1
Roadshow 12.30pm News 1.00pm
Gavin Rossdale 3.00pm News 4.00pm
Afternoon 5.30pm News 6.00pm Mark
Goodier 7.30pm News 8.00pm News
8.30pm News 9.00pm News 10.00pm
12.00-2.00am News

RADIO 2

- FM Stereo
4.00am News 5.30am News
5.00am News 6.00am News 6.30am
6.50am News 7.00am News 7.30am
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RHM backs out of cereals market with £97m sell-off

By GRAHAM SEARJEANT, FINANCIAL EDITOR

RANKS Hovis McDougall has ended an unsuccessful foray into the competitive breakfast cereals market by selling its cereal division, maker of Shredded Wheat, to Cereal Partners, controlled jointly by Nestlé of Switzerland and General Mills of America.

The deal is worth £97 million to RHM, bringing asset sales this year to nearly £350 million and eliminating borrowings. RHM sold its Cerebos Far East grocery business to Suntory for £182 million and a bulk chocolate arm to Klaus Jacobs for £67 million.

The terms reflect Cereal Partners' desire for a strong manufacturing base given that RHM is believed to have lost market share. RHM paid £80 million to RJR-Nabisco in November 1988 for Shredded Wheat, Shreddies and Team Wheat Flakes.

The division, formed last year, also includes an own-label cereal business and Force wheat flakes, one of the most venerable brands in Britain. The three made a combined operating profit of £6.6 million in the year to September 1989.

Nestlé moved into the breakfast cereals business in

the mid-Eighties after Kellogg had expanded the market on the Continent. Cereal Partners, formed last year, said the potential for sales overseas should bring expansion for the former RHM business.

Anglo Group, the vehicle controlled by companies linked to Sir James Goldsmith and Lord Rothschild, confirmed it would offer outside shareholders the option of converting their Anglo shares into RHM shares on the basis of a net asset value of only 175.8p per Anglo share, counting RHM at a closing price on Friday of 340p.

When Anglo shares were suspended last month, the asset value was calculated at 211p, but RHM shares have since fallen. The shares offered, accounting for 2.5 per cent of RHM if all holders took the option, will be provided by the Goldsmith and Rothschild companies from their stakes in Sunningdale, the private company that owns 29.9 per cent of RHM.

The offer will not affect Anglo's 35 per cent stake in Sunningdale, which is now its main asset. Anglo will offer to buy the RHM shares from its former shareholders at 340p.



No alarms: Roger Fletcher, managing director of Menvier-Swain, announcing the group's results yesterday

Menvier-Swain increases payout

MENVIER-Swain Group, the USM-quoted manufacturer of emergency lighting and fire alarms, increased pre-tax profits 53 per cent to £5.47 million for the year to end-April. Turnover rose 55 per cent to £40.3 million. The total dividend has been raised 31 per cent to 6.8p a share, with a

final payout of 4.7p. Earnings per share were 26.9p, up 28 per cent. Menvier shares rose 12p to 365p.

Charles Swain, chairman, said a major extension at the Banbury factory had been completed to meet continued buoyant domestic demand. Transmould, a component

subsidiary, had also been expanded to supply manufacturing companies within the group.

Menvier has subsidiaries in the Netherlands, Denmark, Portugal and now France following the £9.2 million purchase in July last year of Luminox, the country's third

largest supplier of emergency lighting. Results at its American and Australian subsidiaries were disappointing, reflecting depressed markets. After the Luminox purchase, interest charges rose from £201,000 to £555,000, partly offset by a £267,000 surplus from property sales.

BUSINESS ROUNDUP

Pawnbroker invests in US finance firm

HARVEY & Thompson, the quoted pawnbroker, is investing \$500,000 in an American trade finance operation specialising in small North American companies looking for alternatives to bank finance. The new company, Lightship Financial Group, is 83 per cent owned by H & T and will be based in Philadelphia. Lightship will act as broker between American Credit Indemnity, the American credit insurance company, and an unnamed New York financial services group, which will fund the insured receivables. Lightship will take off an agency role and will not keep any of the receivables on its own books.

Lightship will charge a one per cent fee on the annual sales of the client and is expected to earn \$3 million in operating income in its first year, said Rupert Galtiers-Pratt, H & T chairman. The new company is hoping to benefit from the credit squeeze facing small companies in America.

Jenkins sees Abtrust asset profits soar

PRE-TAX profits at Dudley Jenkins Group, the USM mailing-list broker, were up by 44 per cent to £766,000 in the year to end-April. An eight-month contribution from acquisitions raised profits by about £200,000. Group turnover rose by 55 per cent to £8.5 million. Eps climbed from 7.48p to 8.89p. Final dividend is raised to 2.6p (2p), with an improved total of 3.8p (3p).

Abtrust asset value grows

THE net asset value at Abtrust Scotland Investment Company, formerly North of Scotland Investment Company, increased from 31.2p to 34.5p per share in the year to end-May. Pre-tax revenue advanced 23 per cent to £141,000 and total income 22 per cent to £810,000. Eps rose from 0.54p to 0.50p. The share dividend is improved to 0.65p (0.35p).

Reflex to raise £4m

REFLEX Investments, the Irish computer services group, plans to raise about £4.45 million (£4 million) through a one-for-five rights issue at 11.80p a share. The company plans to use the funds to reduce borrowings of about £12 million.

Aidan Farrell, the joint managing director, said that because of continuing growth and an increasing range of activities, new capital was required to strengthen the group's capital base, reduce indebtedness and provide the required resources for continued development. Development Capital Corporation, with 35.59 per cent of the issued share capital, has indicated its intention to take up its full entitlement of the new ordinary shares.

Mitie Group up by 74%

MITIE Group, the mechanical and electrical engineering to cleaning and maintenance group, lifted pre-tax profits by 74 per cent to £616,000 in the year to end-March. Group turnover, boosted by acquisitions, advanced by 36 per cent to £156 million. Eps rose from 7.4p to 10.3p. The company is paying a final dividend of 1p, the first since 1978. Shares climbed by 10p to 193p on the news.

BBA spreads its wings

BBA Group, the automotive components and industrial and aviation services company, is to make a \$23 million acquisition of the "fixed base" airport services operations of Van Dusen. The purchase, which is being acquired by the existing aviation services subsidiary, Page Avies, will make BBA the second largest player in the US airport services market.

Sotheby's £3m plan

SOtheby's is planning to build three new warehouses, costing £3 million at its Summers Place premises, a Victorian mansion set in 40 acres of grounds at Billingshurst, Sussex. It was announced yesterday.

There have been rumours in the art world that the firm was about to sell Summers Place, one of its two provincial bases, but Mr Michael Alsbury, Sotheby's president and chief executive, said such a move would be "unthinkable". It is an integral part of our operations in England. Planning permission for the new expansion has been approved and the new building work is out to tender.

Progress in Gatt farm talks

From ALAN MCGREGOR IN GENEVA

AS GATT negotiators began a week of intensive discussions in Geneva, the trade liberalisation talks achieved a significant step forward with agreement between the EC and US on a framework for negotiations on agriculture.

The talks on farm products are widely seen as the key to the entire Uruguay Round of trade liberalisation. Arthur Dunkel, Gatt director general, said the agreement was a "breakthrough". Julius Katz, deputy US trade representative, said: "The time for statements and posturing is past. We now expect all participants to engage seriously in all areas of the agriculture negotiations."

Poll defeat for Chloride critic

By COLIN CAMPBELL

MAURICE Gillibrand, nominated for the Chloride board by dissatisfied shareholders, was defeated in a poll just an hour after winning a seat on a show of hands at yesterday's annual meeting. It was Dr Gillibrand's fifth attempt at joining the board.

Several shareholders have been critical of Chloride's continued poor financial performance. The group recently passed its 1990 final dividend and reported an attributable profit of £700,000, against £10.3 million last time.

In the poll, Dr Gillibrand received 5.64 million votes. However, there were 83.8 million votes against him. Ray

VFI sold to Dutch group

By MARTIN BARROW

MANAGERS who acquired the office furniture interests of Vickers less than two years ago have aborted plans to go to the stock market and sold the business to Samas-Group, of the Netherlands.

VF International yesterday announced a recommended cash offer from the Amsterdam-quoted Samas-Group valuing the issued share capital at £34 million. The buyers have also agreed to pick up bank borrowings of £29.5 million.

VFI has manufacturing plants at Dartford, Kent, and in France.

VFI earned operating profits of £6.9 million.

Eastern breakup mooted in talks

From PHILIP ROBINSON IN LOS ANGELES

NORTHWEST Airlines, America's fourth largest carrier, is at an advanced stage in negotiations which could give it strategic landing slots on the east coast. A rival, Eastern Airlines, in bankruptcy and under court protection, would be broken up in the process.

Alfred Checchi, chairman of Northwest, was expected to put the proposal to Eastern creditors yesterday.

A spokesman for NWA said any suggestion of a breakup of Eastern was speculation. NWA has never confirmed that Mr Checchi has held talks with Eastern. Martin Shugue, the court-appointed Eastern trustee, has confirmed this. Northwest is believed to want 80 of Eastern's aircraft, its airport gates at Atlanta and maintenance facilities in Atlanta and Miami. It is unclear how much Northwest is prepared to offer.

Dalepak shrugs off BSE with 36% rise

By MARTIN BARROW

DESPITE a further decline in the grillsteak market caused by fears of "mad cow" disease, Dalepak Foods increased pre-tax profits by 36 per cent to £1.92 million during the year to the end of April.

The meat processor and frozen food manufacturer reduced its dependence on grillsteaks from 93 per cent of sales in 1988 to 49 per cent last year, diversifying into processed vegetables and baked products. Group turnover increased by 37 per cent to £33.7 million.

Branded and own-label grillsteak sales rose by 7 per cent, despite a 4 per cent fall in the grillsteak market, while vegetables achieved sales growth of 16 per cent. Trading profits rose 43 per cent to £2.35 million.

Earnings per share rose 40 per cent to 11.64p. There is a final dividend of 2.965p a share for a total of 4p, up 33 per cent.

Chris Ivory, chief executive, said diversification had left Dalepak well placed to take advantage of growth opportunities in the industry, despite the difficult market conditions and the adverse effects of food safety scares.

A total of £1 million was being invested to increase capacity for vegetable processing.

Blue Circle in £36m Italy deal

BLUE Circle Industries is buying Ceramica Dolomite, Italy's second biggest manufacturer of ceramic bathroom equipment for £36.5 million.

Charles Young, chief executive of Blue Circle's home product division, said the deal "positions Blue Circle as one of the leading suppliers to the European bathroom products market."

Siemens growth

Siemens, the West German electronics group, spent DM 5.3 billion on capital investments during the nine months to June, an increase of 62 per cent. Net profits during the period rose by 5 per cent to DM 1.14 billion.

Banks re-rated

Australian Ratings Pty downgraded three high-profile foreign banks here. They are the Hongkong Bank of Australia Ltd (A1 from A1-plus), Standard Chartered Bank of Australia Ltd (A2 from A1) and Chase AMP Bank (A1 from A1-plus).

Alexon sales up

Alexon Group has enjoyed a buoyant first quarter with sales running 20 per cent ahead of last year, Peter Weigand, the chairman, told the AGM. The shares rose 5p to 49p.

Hawker deal off

Hawker Siddeley and UNC of the United States have broken off negotiations for the sale to Hawker of UNC's aircraft engine overhaul and repairs subsidiaries, Airwork and Pacific Automotive.

Metro bids £13.5m for Yorkshire Radio

By PHILIP PANGALOS

METRO Radio Group, the independent radio stations group based in Newcastle, made a £13.5 million offer for Yorkshire Radio Network, which was immediately rejected.

Last week Yorkshire announced it was involved in possible merger talks with Trans World Communications.

County NatWest, on behalf of Metro, has offered four new Metro ordinary shares for every five Yorkshire shares. The offer values each Yorkshire share at about 143p. There is also an alternative of

62p in cash and about 72p in Metro shares.

Metro said its offer represented a more attractive option for Yorkshire shareholders than a merger with Trans World.

The proposed acquisition would create a new independent radio group in Yorkshire and the northeast of England, operating seven local radio stations covering a combined adult population of over six million.

Yorkshire Radio shares climbed 7p to 133p on the news, while Metro Radio shares lost 8p to 171p.

GENERALI

1989 HIGHLIGHTS

(000 US\$) *	1989	1988
Premiums written	4,833,462	3,931,987
Premiums ceded	584,084	545,827
Net premiums	3,749,368	3,386,160
Net investment income	887,444	726,316
Technical interest allocated to Life funds	481,196	374,549
Insurance underwriting result	139,964	84,766
Sundry income and expenditure	4,440	36,740
Operating profit	280,724	281,361
Profit on sale of properties and securities	179,380	152,647
Unrealized capital losses on securities	62,278	50,067
Taxes	70,721	66,168
Total other items	46,390	86,413
Profit for the year	307,104	267,673

* All of above listed figures have been converted at the rate of exchange of Lire 1,270.3 to the US\$.

- Gross premiums written by the Company totalled US\$ 4,833.5m (+12.1% over the previous year, at equal rates of exchange); the Life department contributed US\$ 1,680.7m and the Non-Life business US\$ 3,252.8m.
- Total investments reached US\$ 11,242.7m showing a growth of 12.9%.
- Net investment income totalled US\$ 887.4m showing a growth of 18.1%. The average yield has been 8.1%. Realized capital gains generated from the sale of securities amounted to US\$ 138.1m and from the sale of properties to US\$ 51.3m.
- The profit for the year amounted to US\$ 307.1m (+14.7% over the previous year); from this profit an amount of US\$ 180.2m has been allocated to the reserves, of which US\$ 89m increased the "Extraordinary Reserve".
- The participations in insurance companies have been revised by US\$ 70.9m; this amount has been carried to the corresponding reserve.
- Profit per share (US\$) 1989 1988
Profit 0.579 0.395
Dividend 0.275 0.250
Pay-out ratio (per cent) 48 51
- The shareholders' surplus including the year's profit reached US\$ 2,642m showing an increase of US\$ 251.1m over the previous year.
- Dividend per share is US\$ 0.275 showing an increase of 6.1% over 1988.
- The Meeting decided to increase the Company's capital from Lire 1,080 billion to Lire 1,166 billion through the issue of bonus shares to be assigned to the shareholders in the proportion of 1 new share for every 10 held; the new shares are dividend bearing as from 1.1.1990.
- The Extraordinary General Meeting approved the merger of the fully-owned property subsidiary Generali S.p.A. into Assicurazioni Generali S.p.A.

1989 CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT

ASSETS (000\$) *	1989	1988
Building and farm property	4,077,887	3,828,477
Fixed-interest securities	13,758,078	12,021,729
Shares (including Associates)	4,035,287	3,765,164
Mortgage and policy loans	1,380,100	1,174,279
Deposits with Ceding Companies	508,616	507,618
Bank deposits	1,122,940	951,839
Accounts receivable and other assets	3,204,088	2,884,635
Total	28,390,007	25,134,636
LIABILITIES (000 US\$) *	1989	1988
Provisions for insurance liabilities	21,806,247	19,069,716
Reinsurance deposits	242,084	217,639
Other liabilities	3,062,988	2,012,793
Minority shareholders' interest	400,897	349,878
Shareholders' surplus	3,417,314	3,082,786
Profit for the year	451,517	401,824
Total	28,390,007	25,134,636

- This statement consolidates 58 insurance companies operating in some forty markets, (including 7 Europ Assistance companies), 21 financial, 28 property and 3 agricultural companies where Generali directly or indirectly holds more than 50% of the shares.
- Gross premiums amount to US\$ 8,424.6m (+10.1%), of which US\$ 3,295.8m is for Life and US\$ 5,128.8m for Non-Life. The geographical breakdown is as follows: Italy 37.9%; other EEC Countries 41%; rest of Europe 17.0%; rest of the world 3.2%.
- Investments total US\$ 25,185.6m (+19.2%).
- Investment income amounts to US\$ 1,950m (+14.7%) of which 64.8% is produced by fixed-interest securities, 15.5% by property, 8.5% by shares, 4.6% by bank deposits and 6.6% by other investments.
- The provisions for insurance liabilities amount to US\$ 21,806.2m (+14.4%).
- The shareholders' surplus amounts to US\$ 3,768.3m and 90.7% belongs to the Parent Company, the minority interest being 9.3%.
- The profit for the year increased by 12.4% to US\$ 451.5m and originated from:
(000 US\$) *
Parent Company's profit 307,104 267,673
Profit of the other Companies 272,083 221,673
Consolidation adjustments - 68,705 - 38,886
Consolidated profit 510,482 450,460
Minority interest - 68,885 - 48,736
Profit for the year 451,517 401,824

The Generali Group operates in United Kingdom through: Dog Breeders Insurance, Europa Insurance, Europ Assistance, Hambro Generali Fund Managers and Northern Star Insurance.

Head Office in Trieste (Italy)
United Kingdom Branch in London

GENERALI
Assicurazioni Generali



مكتبة التجميل

Close coupling with Wall Street

COMMENT

DAVID BREWERTON

Sometime between Big Bang and the collapse of the Berlin Wall, there was a great deal of talk in the securities industry of the potential for the London market to "decouple" from the other major markets, New York and Tokyo. When the London indices, in the wake of the 1987 crash, failed to match the recovery pace of its competitors, this was frequently explained in terms of our markets going their own way, following the fundamentals of the economy rather than the herd instinct.

How, then, do we explain the behaviour of the London market yesterday? In the wake of Wall Street's Friday night decline, London opened easier. But on the back of trade figures which emerged very much in line with expectations, the Footsie index recovered all the early losses by the time dealers went to lunch. But come the opening of Wall Street, with the Dow Jones tumbling 100 points or more at one stage, London laid an egg, closing 40 points lower.

The fundamentals for London remain reasonably bullish, although much will depend on

how much damage the government manages to inflict upon itself in the now inevitable dash for the exchange rate mechanism. Talks of leadership challenges, last minute elections and continued poor showings in the opinion polls have put a questionmark over foreign investors' views of London. But, politics aside, it is difficult to make a convincing bear case against London, and that is why there is never the selling pressure which might be suggested by the size of the index swings.

Only five years ago, the footsie and the Dow Jones industrial were running neck and neck, when both were around the 1,200 level. Now the Dow is pushing 3,000 while the footsie trades obstinately below the 2,400 level. Further international evidence of the underperformance of London can be found in the relationship to price/earnings ratios on Wall Street. London stands at only about 70 per cent of the Wall

Street model, the former at around the 11 level, compared with Wall Street's high teens. This may have been what Wall Street was recognising yesterday, so let us hope that the decoupling of the two markets which was so evident on the way up is not reversed on the way down. After all corporate Britain is in no worse state than corporate America, so there's no justification for a discount.

Right lines

The trade figures should not present the Chancellor John Major with too much difficulty in today's House of Commons debate on the

economy. True, there was a slight deterioration last month, though so slight as to be insignificant in the context of figures of this magnitude. But the deficit was exactly as markets expected and the underlying trends continue to be moderately encouraging.

Exports have now been growing faster than imports for the last ten months. In the second quarter of the year the volume of exports, excluding oil and erratic items, was 12 per cent up on the same period a year earlier, compared with a rise of 3½ per cent in imports on the same basis. Exports of consumer goods were 29 per cent higher compared with a rise in consumer imports of 11 per cent, and exports of capital goods rose 5½ per cent

compared with imports up ½ per cent. Similar trends can be seen across most other sectors.

The trends are clearly in the right direction, but the starting position is still adverse. When the monthly import figure is as far above the export figure as it is, at £10.2 billion against £8.64 billion, then the improvement has to go on for a long time before the gap narrows significantly.

The hope is that the slowdown in the economy will continue to cut growth in imports while exports will not suffer too much from the recent rise in the exchange rate. Last week's data were reasonably encouraging. Retail sales fell, the labour market continued to loosen slightly with another rise in unemployment and bank lending and monetary growth showed signs of slowing down. But the outlook for exports is more problematic. While today's buoyancy owes something to last year's fall in sterling, this has now

been partially reversed so after a lag one may expect some slackening in export growth.

The Budget forecast of a £15 billion deficit this calendar year now looks optimistic given the £9.03 billion logged up in the first half. But by the standards of recent months the half-time report is not too discouraging.

Max Newton

Readers may have noticed that our regular US Notebook was missing from yesterday's edition, and it is my sad duty to report that its author, Maxwell Newton, has died. Maxwell, the founder editor of *The Australian*, had a worldwide following for his writings on economics and politics, and brought to our readers his uncanny insight into the bond market. He had been preparing for *The Times* an article on the development potential of the Republic of Korea, which sadly will not now appear. For that reason and others, Maxwell will be missed. An obituary appears on page 14.

TEMPUS

Berkeley moves up a division

INVESTORS in Berkeley Govett may be used to surprises. When they receive their interim report, they are in for a shock. The fund management group has practically created a division overnight.

London Pacific Life & Annuity was set up in California nine months ago by a team from Southmark Corporation. Berkeley invested \$3 million, and its executives set about selling tax-efficient retirement products to the over-50s. So far, so mundane.

Its results are less ordinary. Since its inception, London Pacific has taken more than \$100 million in premium income and in the half year to end-June it made a pre-tax profit of \$4.19 million. Meanwhile its network of 1,500 independent agents assures it of a regular flow of business.

This sort of organic growth makes chief executives question acquisition strategies.

Profits from London Pacific compensated for a downturn in Berkeley's traditional corporate finance business, where profits fell 45 per cent to \$5.19 million due to a fall in corporate activity. Overall, profits rose 18 per cent to \$22.7 million, while the interim dividend is being lifted 1c to 7c.

John Govett, the British asset manager, still attracts interest in its esoteric products. Fund management fees rose 40 per cent to \$15.9 million. Berkeley has decided to

spend its \$90 million nest egg on an American fund management group, to complement John Govett and its American development capital operations.

Lord Charles Cecil, British managing director, says there are managers for sale but few that impress him. Oppenheimer, the British & Commonwealth arm, has potential, costing less than £90 million.

For now, the group looks likely to make \$48 million this year, putting the shares on a p/e ratio of 7.5. Inexpensive, provided the market can keep up with it.

Shareholders have to wait for the chairman's published statement for an insight into current prospects, but an eventual sale of the dry-cleaning operation, which to date has not been a success, should not surprise.

Since life is tough in its chosen fields, Black Arrow could be hard pressed to recoup its setback this financial year, and the historic p/e of 6.9 based on yesterday's 65p share price reflects this.

The shares are tightly held with the Edward family holding 53 per cent and Mercury a further 20 per cent.

The net asset value at year end was 46.6p a share, but until Black Arrow resumes its profits path, the shares will attract only limited interest.

Bullough
IT'S an ill wind, and those food stores were bound to benefit somebody sooner or later. In Bullough's case it is sooner, with pending legislation to reduce the temperatures at which food retailers chill their products, helping its refrigeration activities to treble profits in the first half of the current year.

Without them Bullough's results would have looked a sorry affair. Borrowing costs have forced companies to shelve plans for re-equipping their offices, leading to a slowdown in the dominant office products division, just as group overheads got a little out of hand, squeezing margins.

Office product profits sank by nearly 20 per cent to £6.9 million, despite a satisfactory contribution from the French buy, Atal. Improved figures from the heating and electrical divisions were offset by a depressed result from engineering, where the cost of concentrating the wire filing tray-to-filing operation at one factory took heavy toll.

Demand for food chilling equipment will continue strong, and production capacity has already been stoked up, but refrigeration will not do well enough to prevent a fall in profits this year. Analysis think Bullough will do well to emerge with £25 million before tax, against £28.7 million, dropping eps below 14p.

As profit warnings go, Derick Bartle's forecast of a "modest reduction" got a pretty mild reception, leaving the shares 1p off at 114p. With gearing expected to be below 30 per cent by the year-end, and interest covered ten times, Bullough can ride out the market's problems. But it's probably still early to buy.

Opec oils the wheels for a steady rise in prices



Heading for the summit: Rashid Salim al-Ameeri, the new Kuwaiti oil minister, arriving in Geneva

WITH Opec countries preparing to gather in Geneva for a crucial full ministerial session tomorrow, President Saddam Hussein of Iraq threatened to undo months of patient negotiations behind the scenes by launching a public attack on his Arab neighbours.

A week ago he accused Arab rulers of putting American interests first by causing low oil prices through overproduction and threatened retaliation if there was no major policy change. "If words fail to protect Iraqis something must be done to return things to their natural course and return usurped rights to their owners," he said. "Iraqis will not forget the maxim that cutting needs is better than cutting the means of living."

The implicit threat of military retaliation was too obvious to miss and although President Saddam identified no country by name, few doubt that his words were directed at Kuwait and the United Arab Emirates, who have repeatedly breached their Opec production quotas. Harsh words can force sharp movements in crude prices and his thinly-veiled threat would normally have been worth a couple of dollars per barrel. Yet Arab countries stayed quiet and the oil market shrugged off his remarks.

This muted response illustrates Opec's new-found confidence and its business-like approach to tomorrow's summit. Western oil analysts have been let down by the organisation too often to be carried away, but there is a growing belief that the foundations are being laid for a steady increase in oil prices during the first half of the decade.

The public squabbles which characterised Opec meetings in the 1970s are unlikely to be repeated. In the run-up to the Geneva summit much of the agenda has already been dealt with and a united front should emerge.

A significant breakthrough was achieved when the UAE agreed to reduce output to its quota level of 1.095 million barrels per day, removing about 900,000 of the cartel's estimated daily over-produc-

tion of 1.2 million. Kuwait, the other main quota violator, has reduced production to bring more pressure to bear on the UAE, and Saudi Arabia has made it clear that its days as swing producer are over.

This goes some way towards explaining why Arab countries ignored President Saddam's speech. There is a growing consensus that the UAE and Kuwait must be brought to heel if oil prices are to enjoy a long-term recovery from June's low of \$15.50. Opec members believe that the

world's economic balance is changing in their favour and that they are now, more than ever, masters of their own fate.

Demand for oil is rising steadily. Demand from OECD countries is expected to increase by 1.9 per cent this year. Demand from non-OECD countries, which account for 30 per cent of world oil consumption against less than 20 per cent in 1979, is less easy to chart, but is outpacing growth in industrialised nations.

The other half of the equation sees production from

non-Opec countries declining. The North Sea is 500,000 barrels a day below its peak of 2.5 million while American imports from the Middle East have doubled to 6 million barrels a day in five years.

Russian exports to OECD countries continued to decline in the second quarter to about 3.5 million barrels a day, a fall of 10 per cent year-on-year, and further cuts are certain as problems caused by poor maintenance and lack of investment become more acute. Any increase in demand from Eastern bloc countries trying to regenerate their economies cannot be met by the Soviet Union and Opec is the only alternative.

The most important question is whether Opec will be able to satisfy rising world demand. The gap between what the industrialised countries can consume and what Opec can produce has narrowed sharply.

In 1979, when OECD countries guzzled more than 30.5 million barrels a day, Opec's sustainable daily production was about 36 million barrels. The daily surplus has now fallen to about 3 million barrels. Opec's overall capacity fell during the 1980s, mainly because of the Iran-Iraq war but also because many Gulf states were unable to maintain investment in modern infrastructure when oil prices collapsed.

The oil market is tighter than it has been for two decades and the sharp rise in crude prices which followed last winter's cold snap in America was the result of the fine balance in supply and demand.

Even a modicum of discipline among Opec countries should swing prices back in their favour. Iran and Iraq have narrowed their differences and intense political pressure is being put on the UAE and Kuwait to restrain production. Against this background, analysts are forecasting a price of \$20 a barrel by the year-end and \$25 by early 1992 is no longer an unrealistic target.

Martin Barrow

THE TIMES CITY DIARY

Rich mixture at Hazlewood

THE demise of CCF Laurence Prus has sparked a number of anxious searches for new advisers, none more so than at Hazlewood Foods, where the defunct company was both broker and merchant banker. But Hazlewood's choice of broker has caused some surprise in the Square Mile. It has settled on the independent Henderson Crosthwaite, after considering the usual big integrated houses, and has plumped for Baring Brothers as bankers. Henderson is, of course, home to that top-ranking team of food manufacturing analysts David Lang and Michael Landmore, and might therefore be a natural choice for Hazlewood. But that very team was the source of an extremely unflattering circular earlier this year on the food group, written by Mr Landmore, which went about as far as a prudent analyst can towards the suggestion that Hazlewood had blown its credibility with the City and that its previous set of figures warranted careful scrutiny. What price independence now? Observers reckon the team is probably worth more to Henderson than Hazlewood's fees, but fund managers will doubtless be watching the pair's output with even more than their usual interest.

THIS column is perhaps more used to handing out bricks than plaudits, but has off to American Express. The Times banking correspondent, en

route to the races on Saturday, had a wallet full of credit cards stolen. While such as Visa and Access understandably wanted a week to ten days to rustle up a replacement, Amex had one in his hands within an hour, via a local travel agent.

Shipping out

KEITH Irons is giving up, temporarily he hopes, the sedate life of the City to go sailing on his boat Ragtime, named after his liking for ragtime music and because he once worked on a local "rag" newspaper. Irons bows out of his position as vice-president, public affairs, of mining group Minorco having decided that life was going to be a step-by-step affair, and not the exciting pitch of corporate activity he had hoped. "Had Minorco been successful in taking over Consolidated Gold Fields in 1988, business life would have been fast and furious, so I am now looking for a new challenge," says the man who stood last lost as a Tory candidate against Tony Banks in the Newham North West seat in 1983, and who earlier worked for RTZ, Blue Circle and Charter Consolidated.

Tap resources

A LENGTHY drought could be just what London estate agents are looking for to send house prices soaring again, if the experiences of their colleagues in Lima are anything to go by. In the Peruvian capital, where preparations are taking place for the swearing-in of president-elect Alberto Fujimori on Saturday,

properties which boast a bathtub among their otherwise spartan facilities are enjoying unprecedented increases in value. Continuous and extended interruptions in the water supply are to blame, since all available receptacles are filled to capacity when water is unexpectedly restored. The government attributes the water shortage to the worst drought for more than 100 years in the Andes, but harassed residents blame the government for not increasing the water supply even though the population of Lima virtually doubled in the 1980s and the city is now home to 7 million people. London, you have been warned. Mind you, Peruvian-style inflation of 3,000 per cent can have some weird effects on the housing market. One expatriate claims the price he paid for a house ten years ago would now just about buy a box of matches.

Beckwith dies

PETER Beckwith, the man who put the hard edge of reality on many of Alan Bond's most expensive dreams, has died at the age of 49. Beckwith died at home in Perth, Australia, on Sunday night, the victim of an inoperable brain tumour that was diagnosed only a few months ago. Friends yesterday described the former managing director of Bond Corp Holdings as "the nuts and bolts man" who made many of Alan Bond's biggest deals happen. His forte was property wheeling and dealing but Bond also sought his opinion on many a business deal.

Beckwith had been managing director of Bond Corp since 1982 and a director since 1975 but had been ill for about 18 months after suffering a heart attack. He was Alan Bond's righthand man and had primary responsibility for strategy and policy and for the group's profit and loss and balance sheet performance. Beckwith was known for his dry sense of humour. When Tiny Rowland's Lonrho set its sights on Bond Corp it touched off a wave of rumour-mongering that, at one stage, had Alan Bond dead and buried. When that rumour reached Beckwith he reportedly quipped: "If he was dead he would have rung me." Beckwith leaves a wife and three adult children, a son and two daughters.

Branching out

LIKE father, like son. Another of the Birch clan has just pulled off his first deal. Keith Birch, aged 33, son of the one-time Ward White boss Philip, has bought the client base, goodwill and assets of Ram Computer Group, a bigger competitor to his Touchstone Computers, which supplies accounting systems. Keith may be showing signs of his father's commercial acumen but he lacks his sure touch with the press. The budding tycoon let slip two commercially-sensitive facts about the deal and then asked for them not to be reported. Delighted; but as he progresses in his career he may find one or two of my journalistic colleagues less understanding.

Martin Waller

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Portfolio

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No.	Company	Group	Price	Change	%
1	Hammerprint	Paper/Print	1.10	+0.02	+1.8
2	Wales	Property	1.10	+0.02	+1.8
3	Low (Wm)	Food	1.10	+0.02	+1.8
4	Bilton (P)	Property	1.10	+0.02	+1.8
5	Hickson	Chemicals/Plas	1.10	+0.02	+1.8
6	Unitech	Electronics	1.10	+0.02	+1.8
7	Matthews (Bernard)	Food	1.10	+0.02	+1.8
8	BHH Group	Property	1.10	+0.02	+1.8
9	Comedy Gp	Building/Roads	1.10	+0.02	+1.8
10	PFG Hodgson	Industrials-LR	1.10	+0.02	+1.8
11	Whitbread 'A' (a)	Breweries	1.10	+0.02	+1.8
12	Logica	Electronics	1.10	+0.02	+1.8
13	Bulmer (H P)	Breweries	1.10	+0.02	+1.8
14	Pescoc	Chemicals/Plas	1.10	+0.02	+1.8
15	Granger	Property	1.10	+0.02	+1.8
16	Swire Pacific 'A'	Industrials-SZ	1.10	+0.02	+1.8
17	Barclay Math	Industrials-LR	1.10	+0.02	+1.8
18	Barclay Math	Industrials-LR	1.10	+0.02	+1.8
19	Renold	Newspapers/Pub	1.10	+0.02	+1.8
20	Thames Water	Chemicals/Plas	1.10	+0.02	+1.8
21	Clifford Foods 'A'	Food	1.10	+0.02	+1.8
22	Berkley Gp	Building/Roads	1.10	+0.02	+1.8
23	Vimex	Industrials-SZ	1.10	+0.02	+1.8
24	Halma	Industrials-LR	1.10	+0.02	+1.8
25	Steelway	Building/Roads	1.10	+0.02	+1.8
26	Bar (AG)	Food	1.10	+0.02	+1.8
27	Verzon	Industrials-SZ	1.10	+0.02	+1.8
28	LWT CP	Leisure	1.10	+0.02	+1.8
29	TGH	Industrials-SZ	1.10	+0.02	+1.8
30	Bristol	Newspapers/Pub	1.10	+0.02	+1.8
31	Redland (a)	Building/Roads	1.10	+0.02	+1.8
32	Adia	Property	1.10	+0.02	+1.8
33	Glynwed (a)	Industrials-LR	1.10	+0.02	+1.8
34	Masdar	Industrials-LR	1.10	+0.02	+1.8
35	Burnham (a)	Oil/Gas	1.10	+0.02	+1.8
36	Wagon Ind	Industrials-SZ	1.10	+0.02	+1.8
37	Thames TV	Leisure	1.10	+0.02	+1.8
38	Amerham	Chemicals/Plas	1.10	+0.02	+1.8
39	Alexon	Drugs/Stores	1.10	+0.02	+1.8
40	Oil Search	Oil/Gas	1.10	+0.02	+1.8
41	Sieff (a)	Industrials-SZ	1.10	+0.02	+1.8
42	Ranger	Oil/Gas	1.10	+0.02	+1.8
43	Mountleigh	Property	1.10	+0.02	+1.8
44	Mountleigh	Property	1.10	+0.02	+1.8

Please take into account any minus signs

Weekly Dividend
Please make a note of your daily totals for the weekly dividend of £4,000 in Saturday's newspaper.

MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	TOTAL

Two winners shared the £2,000 Portfolio Platinum prize yesterday. Mr Ronald Rook, of Wolverhampton, West Midlands, and Mrs Winifred Eyer, of Bristol, Avon, each received £1,000.

BRIEF FUNDS

1990	High	Low	Close	Change	%
1000	1000	1000	1000	0.00	0.0
1001	1001	1001	1001	0.00	0.0
1002	1002	1002	1002	0.00	0.0
1003	1003	1003	1003	0.00	0.0
1004	1004	1004	1004	0.00	0.0
1005	1005	1005	1005	0.00	0.0
1006	1006	1006	1006	0.00	0.0
1007	1007	1007	1007	0.00	0.0
1008	1008	1008	1008	0.00	0.0
1009	1009	1009	1009	0.00	0.0
1010	1010	1010	1010	0.00	0.0
1011	1011	1011	1011	0.00	0.0
1012	1012	1012	1012	0.00	0.0
1013	1013	1013	1013	0.00	0.0
1014	1014	1014	1014	0.00	0.0
1015	1015	1015	1015	0.00	0.0
1016	1016	1016	1016	0.00	0.0
1017	1017	1017	1017	0.00	0.0
1018	1018	1018	1018	0.00	0.0
1019	1019	1019	1019	0.00	0.0
1020	1020	1020	1020	0.00	0.0

FIVE TO FIFTEEN YEARS

1990	High	Low	Close	Change	%
1000	1000	1000	1000	0.00	0.0
1001	1001	1001	1001	0.00	0.0
1002	1002	1002	1002	0.00	0.0
1003	1003	1003	1003	0.00	0.0
1004	1004	1004	1004	0.00	0.0
1005	1005	1005	1005	0.00	0.0
1006	1006	1006	1006	0.00	0.0
1007	1007	1007	1007	0.00	0.0
1008	1008	1008	1008	0.00	0.0
1009	1009	1009	1009	0.00	0.0
1010	1010	1010	1010	0.00	0.0
1011	1011	1011	1011	0.00	0.0
1012	1012	1012	1012	0.00	0.0
1013	1013	1013	1013	0.00	0.0
1014	1014	1014	1014	0.00	0.0
1015	1015	1015	1015	0.00	0.0
1016	1016	1016	1016	0.00	0.0
1017	1017	1017	1017	0.00	0.0
1018	1018	1018	1018	0.00	0.0
1019	1019	1019	1019	0.00	0.0
1020	1020	1020	1020	0.00	0.0

OVER FIFTEEN YEARS

1990	High	Low	Close	Change	%
1000	1000	1000	1000	0.00	0.0
1001	1001	1001	1001	0.00	0.0
1002	1002	1002	1002	0.00	0.0
1003	1003	1003	1003	0.00	0.0
1004	1004	1004	1004	0.00	0.0
1005	1005	1005	1005	0.00	0.0
1006	1006	1006	1006	0.00	0.0
1007	1007	1007	1007	0.00	0.0
1008	1008	1008	1008	0.00	0.0
1009	1009	1009	1009	0.00	0.0
1010	1010	1010	1010	0.00	0.0
1011	1011	1011	1011	0.00	0.0
1012	1012	1012	1012	0.00	0.0
1013	1013	1013	1013	0.00	0.0
1014	1014	1014	1014	0.00	0.0
1015	1015	1015	1015	0.00	0.0
1016	1016	1016	1016	0.00	0.0
1017	1017	1017	1017	0.00	0.0
1018	1018	1018	1018	0.00	0.0
1019	1019	1019	1019	0.00	0.0
1020	1020	1020	1020	0.00	0.0

UNDATED

1990	High	Low	Close	Change	%
1000	1000	1000	1000	0.00	0.0
1001	1001	1001	1001	0.00	0.0
1002	1002	1002	1002	0.00	0.0
1003	1003	1003	1003	0.00	0.0
1004	1004	1004	1004	0.00	0.0
1005	1005	1005	1005	0.00	0.0
1006	1006	1006	1006	0.00	0.0
1007	1007	1007	1007	0.00	0.0
1008	1008	1008	1008	0.00	0.0
1009	1009	1009	1009	0.00	0.0
1010	1010	1010	1010	0.00	0.0
1011	1011	1011	1011	0.00	0.0
1012	1012	1012	1012	0.00	0.0
1013	1013	1013	1013	0.00	0.0
1014	1014	1014	1014	0.00	0.0
1015	1015	1015	1015	0.00	0.0
1016	1016	1016	1016	0.00	0.0
1017	1017	1017	1017	0.00	0.0
1018	1018	1018	1018	0.00	0.0
1019	1019	1019	1019	0.00	0.0
1020	1020	1020	1020	0.00	0.0

BANKS, DISCOUNT HP

1990	High	Low	Close	Change	%
1000	1000	1000	1000	0.00	0.0
1001	1001	1001	1001	0.00	0.0
1002	1002	1002	1002	0.00	0.0
1003	1003	1003	1003	0.00	0.0
1004	1004	1004	1004	0.00	0.0
1005	1005	1005	1005	0.00	0.0
1006	1006	1006	1006	0.00	0.0
1007	1007	1007	1007	0.00	0.0
1008	1008	1008	1008	0.00	0.0
1009	1009	1009	1009	0.00	0.0
1010	1010	1010	1010	0.00	0.0
1011	1011	1011	1011	0.00	0.0
1012	1012	1012	1012	0.00	0.0
1013	1013	1013	1013	0.00	0.0
1014	1014	1014	1014	0.00	0.0
1015	1015	1015	1015	0.00	0.0
1016	1016	1016	1016	0.00	0.0
1017	1017	1017	1017	0.00	0.0
1018	1018	1018	1018	0.00	0.0
1019	1019	1019	1019	0.00	0.0
1020	1020	1020	1020	0.00	0.0

INDEX-LINKED

1990	High	Low	Close	Change	%
1000	1000	1000	1000	0.00	0.0
1001	1001	1001	1001	0.00	0.0
1002	1002	1002	1002	0.00	0.0
1003	1003	1003	1003	0.00	0.0
1004	1004	1004	1004	0.00	0.0
1005	1005	1005	1005	0.00	0.0
1006	1006	1006	1006	0.00	0.0
1007	1007	1007	1007	0.00	0.0
1008	1008	1008	1008	0.00	0.0
1009	1009	1009	1009	0.00	0.0
1010	1010	1010	1010	0.00	0.0
1011	1011	1011	1011	0.00	0.0
1012	1012	1012	1012	0.00	0.0
1013	1013	1013	1013	0.00	0.0
1014	1014	1014	1014	0.00	0.0
1015	1015	1015	1015	0.00	0.0
1016	1016	1016	1016	0.00	0.0
1017	1017	1017	1017	0.00	0.0
1018	1018	1018	1018	0.00	0.0
1019	1019	1019	1019	0.00	0.0
1020	1020	1020	1020	0.00	0.0

STOCK EXCHANGE PRICES

Heavy markdown

ACCOUNT DAYS: Dealings began July 23. Dealings end August 3. Contango day August 6. Settlement day August 13.
Forward bargains are permitted on two previous business days.

Prices recorded are at market close. Changes are calculated on the previous day's close, but adjustments are made when a stock is ex-dividend. Where one price is quoted, it is a middle price. Changes, yields and price earnings ratios are based on middle prices. (a) denotes Alpha Stocks.

(VOLUMES PAGE 28)

1990	High	Low	Company	Price	Change	%	Vol	P/E
25	14	10	1000	10	0.00	0.0	1000	10
26	15	11	1001	11	0.00	0.0	1001	11
27	16	12	1002	12	0.00	0.0	1002	12
28	17	13	1003	13	0.00	0.0	1003	13
29	18	14	1004	14	0.00	0.0	1004	14
30	19	15	1005	15	0.00	0.0	1005	15
31	20	16	1006	16	0.00	0.0	1006	16
32	21	17	1007	17	0.00	0.0	1007	17
33	22	18	1008	18	0.00	0.0	1008	18
34	23	19	1009	19	0.00	0.0	1009	19
35	24	20	1010	20	0.00	0.0	1010	20
36	25	21	1011	21	0.00	0.0	1011	21
37	26	22	1012	22	0.00	0.0	1012	22
38	27	23	1013	23	0.00	0.0	1013	23
39	28	24	1014	24	0.00	0.0	1014	24
40	29	25	1015	25	0.00	0.0	1015	25
41	30	26	1016	26	0.00	0.0	1016	26
42	31	27	1017	27	0.00	0.0	1017	27
43	32	28	1018	28	0.00	0.0	1018	28
44	33	29	1019	29	0.00	0.0	1019	29
45	34	30	1020	30	0.00	0.0	1020	30
46	35	31	1021	31	0.00	0.0	1021	31
47	36	32	1022	32	0.00	0.0	1022	32
48	37	33	1023	33	0.00	0.0	1023	33
49	38	34	1024	34	0.00	0.0	1024	34
50	39	35	1025	35	0.00	0.0	1025	35
51	40	36	1026	36	0.00	0.0	1026	36
52	41	37	1027	37	0.00	0.0	1027	37
53	42	38	1028	38	0.00	0.0	1028	38
54	43	39	1029	39	0.00	0.0	1029	39
55	44	40	1030	40	0.00	0.0	1030	40
56	45	41	1031	41	0.00	0.0	1031	41
57	46	42	1032	42	0.00	0.0	1032	42
58	47	43	1033	43	0.00	0.0	1033	43
59	48	44	1034	44	0.00	0.0	1034	44
60	49	45	1035	45	0.00	0.0	1035	45
61	50	46	1036	46	0.00	0.0	1036	46
62	51	47	1037	47	0.00	0.0	1037	47
63	52	48	1038	48	0.00	0.0	1038	48
64	53	49	1039	49	0.00	0.0	1039	49
65	54	50	1040	50	0.00	0.0	1040	50
66	55	51	1041	51	0.00	0.0	1041	51
67	56	52	1042	52	0.00	0.0	1042	52
68	57	53	1043	53	0.00	0.0	1043	53
69	58	54	1044	54	0.00	0.0	1044	54
70	59	55	1045	55	0.00	0.0	1045	55
71	60	56	1046	56	0.00	0.0	1046	56
72	61	57	1047	57	0.00	0.0	1047	57
73	62	58	1048	58	0.00	0.0	1048	58
74	63	59	1049	59	0.00	0.0	1049	59
75	64	60	1050	60	0.00	0.0	1050	60
76	65	61	1051	61	0.00	0.0	1051	61
77	66	62	1052	62	0.00	0.0	1052	62
78	67	63	1053	63	0.00	0.0	1053	63
79	68	64	1054	64	0.00	0.0	1054	64
80	69	65	1055	65	0.00	0.0	1055	65
81	70	66	1056	66	0.00	0.0	1056	66
82	71	67	1057	67	0.00	0.0	1057	67
83	72	68	1058	68	0.00	0.0	1058	68
84	73	69	1059	69	0.00	0.0	1059	69
85	74	70	1060	70	0.00	0.0	1060	70
86	75	71	1061	71	0.00	0.0	1061	71
87	76	72	1062	72	0.00	0.0	1062	72
88	77	73	1063	73	0.00	0.0	1063	73
89	78	74	1064	74	0.00	0.0	1064	74
90	79	75	1065	75	0.00	0.0	1065	75
91	80	76	1066	76	0.00	0.0	1066	76
92	81	77	1067	77	0.00	0.0	1067	77
93	82	78	1068	78	0.00	0.0	1068	78
94	83	79	1069	79	0.00	0.0	1069	79
95	84	80	1070	80	0.00	0.0	1070	80
96	85	81	1071	81	0.00	0.0	1071	81
97	86	82	1072	82	0.00	0.0	1072	82
98	87	83	1073	83	0.00	0.0	1073	83
99	88	84	1074	84	0.00	0.0	1074	84
100	89	85	1075	85	0.00	0.0	1075	85
101	90	86	1076	86	0.00	0.0	1076	86
102	91	87	1077	87	0.00	0.0	1077	87
103	92	88	1078	88	0.00	0.0	1078	88
104	93	89	1079	89	0.00	0.0	1079	89
105	94	90	1080	90	0.00	0.0	1080	90
106	95	91	1081	91	0.00	0.0	1081	91
107	96	92	1082	92	0.00	0.0	1082	92
108	97	93	1083	93	0.00	0.0	1083	93
109	98	94	1084	94	0.00	0.0	1084	94
110	99	95	1085	95	0.00	0.0	1085	95
111	100	96	1086	96	0.00	0.0	1086	96
112	101	97	1087	97	0.00	0.0	1087	97
113	102	98	1088	98	0.00	0.0	1088	98
114	103	99	1089	99	0.00	0.0	1089	99
115	104	100	1090	100	0.00	0.0	1090	100
116	105	101	1091	101	0.00	0.0	1091	101
117	106	102	1092	102	0.00	0.0	1092	102
118	107	103	1093	103	0.00	0.0	1093	103
119	108	104	1094	104	0.00	0.0	1094	104
120	109	105	1095	105	0.00	0.0	1095	105
121	110	106	1096	106	0.00	0.0	1096	106
122	111	107	1097	107	0.00	0.0	1097	107
123	112	108	1098	108	0.00	0.0	1098	108
124	113	109	1099	109	0.00	0.0	1099	109
125	114	110	1100	110	0.00	0.0	1100	110
126	115	111	1101	111	0.00	0.0	1101	111
127	116	112	1102	112	0.00	0.0	1102	112
128	117	113	1103	113	0.00	0.0	1103	113
129	118	114	1104	114	0.00	0.0	1104	114
130	119	115	1105	115	0.00	0.0	1105	115
131	120	116	1106	116	0.00	0.0	1106	116
132	121	117	1107	117	0.00	0.0	1107	117
133	122	118	1108	118	0.00	0.0	1108	118
134	123	119	1109	119	0.00	0.0	1109	119
135	124	120	1110	120	0.00	0.0	1110	120
136	125	121	1111	121	0.00	0.0	1111	121
137	126	122	1112	122	0.00	0.0	1112	122
138	127	123	1113	123	0.00	0.0	1113	123
139	128	124	1114	124	0.00	0.0	1114	124
140	129	125	1115	125	0.00	0.0	1115	125
141	130	126	1116	126	0.00	0.0	1116	126
142	131	127	1117	127	0.00	0.0	1117	127
143	132	128	1118	128	0.00	0.0	1118	128
144	133	129	1119	129	0.00	0.0	1119	129
145	134	130	1120	130	0.00	0.0	1120	130
146	135	131	1121	131	0.00	0.0	1121	131
147	136	132	1122	132	0.00	0.0	1122	132
148	137	133	1123	133	0.00	0.0	1123	133
149	138	134	1124	134	0.00	0.0	1124	134
150	139	135	1125	135	0.00	0.0	1125	135
151	140	136	1126	136	0.00	0.0	1126	136
152	141	137	1127	137	0.00	0.0	1127	137
153	142	138	1128	138	0.00	0.0	1128	138
154	143	139	1129	139	0.00	0.0	1129	139
155	144	140	1130	140	0.00	0.0	1130	140
156	145	141	1131	141	0.00	0.0	1131	141
157	146	142	1132	142	0.00	0.0	1132	142
158	147	143	1133	143	0.00	0.0	1133	143
159	148	144	1134	144	0.00	0.0	1134	144
160	149	145	1135	145	0.00	0.0	1135	145
161	150	146	1136	146	0.00	0.0	1136	146
162	151	147	1137	147	0.00	0.0	1137	147
163	152	148	1138	148	0.00	0.0	1138	148
164	153	149	1139	149	0.00	0.0	1139	149
165	154	150	1140	150	0.00	0.0	1140	150
166	155	151	1141	151	0.00	0.0	1141	151
167	156	152	1142	152	0.00	0.0	1142	152
168	157	153	1143	153	0.00	0.0	1143	153
169	158	154	1144	154	0.00	0.0	1144	154
170	159	155	1145	155	0.00	0.0	1145	155
171	160	156	1146	156	0.00	0.0	1146	156
172	161	157	1147	157	0.00	0.0	1147	157
173	162	158	1148	158	0.00	0.0	1148	158
174	163	159	1149	159	0.00	0.0	1149	159
175	164	160	1150	160	0.00	0.0	1150	160
176	165	161	1151	161	0.00	0.0	1151	161
177	166	162	1152	162	0.00	0.0	1152	162
178	167	163	1153	163	0.00	0.0	1153	163
179	168	164	1154	164	0.00	0.0	1154	164
180	169	165	1155	165	0.00	0.0	1155	165
181	170	166	1156	166	0.00	0.0	1156	166
182	171	167	1157	167	0.00	0.0	1157	167
183	172	168	1158	168	0.00	0.0	1158	168
184	173	169	1159	169	0.00	0.0	1159	169
185	174	170	1160	170	0.00	0.0	1160	170
186	175	171	1161					

071-481 4481

LEGAL APPOINTMENTS

071-481 4481

HEAD OF LITIGATION

Though a relatively small partnership by London standards, our client has built consistent success on a broad client-base and a practice dating back to the last century. The practice embraces diverse contentious and non-contentious matters, for both commercial and private clients, and has recently shown significant growth. This in turn has meant a move to new premises, ideally located, investment in new technology and so on.

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A vacancy now exists for a mature lawyer to become Head of Litigation. The Department represents a substantial part of the firm's practice and undertakes the full range of High Court litigation. Considerable experience is therefore required of candidates who should typically be upwards of 35 years old. They must also possess appropriate personal qualities - in particular, the ability to supervise a team and manage client relationships.

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For further information please contact Philip Boynton, LL.B., LL.M., on 071-405 6852 or write to him at Reuter Simkin Ltd., Recruitment Consultants, 5 Bream's Buildings, Chancery Lane, London EC4A 1DY.

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The national structure of the CPS means that vacancies may be available throughout England and Wales. Starting salaries will depend on experience and location, and range to £27,474. (London appointments also receive a weighting allowance up to £1,750). Articled Clerks and Pupils Baristers salaries range between £9,922 and £13,717. (All salaries are currently under review).

For further details on working for the CPS, please contact our Recruitment Team on (071) 273 8172, or write to the Recruitment Team, Crown Prosecution Service, 4-12 Queen Anne's Gate, London SW1H 9AZ.

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The Head of Legal Services will obviously play a key role in this interesting and challenging development and the person appointed, in addition to extensive relevant legal experience, will also have the ability and drive to carry the project through.

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LONDON

With the changes ahead in the Legal Profession and the run-up to 1992, I am now instructed by several prestigious West End and City practices looking for complementary practices to become engaged with them - the largest of which could accommodate up to 15 Partners sitting on Company Commercial - and the others could accommodate smaller firms in the Insurance, Entertainment, Trust Tax & Probate, Banking and Shipping fields.

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Mrs. Pamela Headford
West Essex Legal Services
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071-582-2382.

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(2 posts)

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Specific duties include hearing both civil and criminal proceedings as well as determining appeals for the Magistrates' Court. Your brief also encompasses responsibility for the budget and recruitment for the administrative function.

QUALIFICATIONS

A British Citizen, over 45 years of age, and with a law degree, you should have practised law at this level for at least 10 years. A knowledge of French and a familiarity with the law of Commonwealth countries are desirable attributes.

TERMS OF APPOINTMENT

As part of the British Government's aid programme you will be on contract to the Government of Vanuatu for 2 years with a local taxable salary and a tax-free supplement payable in sterling. The local salary and supplement will give a total income, after tax, of approximately £36,321 p.a. Additional benefits will normally include variable tax-free overseas allowances, currently £3,801 p.a. (single) and up to £6,894 p.a. (married), children's education allowances, free passages and annual fare-paid leave.

POST 2 KIRIBATI

Kiribati has a written constitution and a legal system based on English Law with elements of customary law.

The number of cases registered in the High Court is growing each year and your main duties will be to hear civil and criminal cases as well as civil and criminal appeals from the Magistrates' Courts and land appeals.

You will also be an ex-officio member of the Court of Appeal and a member of the Council of State with other constitutional duties.

QUALIFICATIONS

You should be a British Citizen, aged 45-60, and have been an Advocate, Barrister or Solicitor for at least 12 years. Substantial relevant experience as a Magistrate or a higher judicial office is desirable.

TERMS OF APPOINTMENT

As part of the British Government's aid programme you will be on contract to the Government of Kiribati for 2 years with a local taxable salary and a tax-free supplement payable in sterling. The local salary and supplement will give a total income, after tax, of approximately £37,011 p.a. Additional benefits will normally include variable tax-free overseas allowances, currently £2,892 p.a. (single) and up to £4,131 p.a. (married), children's education allowances, free passages and annual fare-paid leave.

Closing date for receipt of completed applications is 21 August, 1990.

For further details and application form, please write to Appointments Officer, Ref No AH364/AWB/TT, Abercrombie House, Eaglesham Road, East Kilbride, Glasgow G75 8EA, or telephone (03552) 41199 ext 3336.

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Making divorce work for children

The prime minister's Pankhurst lecture on family matters was well-timed. On television, the Lord Chancellor canvassed the reform of parental divorce law, and in Wisconsin, Antony Newton, the social security secretary, examined an American method of ensuring fathers support their children. Stories were even planted in the press to test reaction to the idea of "children" being legally responsible for their aged parents. But why has the cabinet developed such an interest in family law?

The official answer, of course, is that its reform would help in the revival of those much-heralded Victorian values of family sanctity, self-sufficiency and non-intervention. In truth, and whatever the intrinsic value of recent initiatives, even the most cursory study of social history is enough to expose the myth of the family in decline. The 19th century was not a halcyon period in which entire extended families — all seven primary members and 33 secondaries, if not the 151 tertiary — sat around some endless hearth offering support to one another.

Pre-industrial households were small, usually containing about four people, the children leaving at about age 15 to become servants



new divorce proposals, Chris Barton reports

Child maintenance heads the agenda of

or farm labourers, often far from their parents. In an earlier century, for the sons of the big house it was not the wanton provision of subsidised all-day crèches that ensured parental deprivation; Sir Robert Walpole barely saw his parents from the day he was sent to school as a six-year-old to when he was recalled from Cambridge on the death of his father.

Should divorce, if only between parents of minors, be made more difficult? Much depends, as "Professor" Joad of *Brains Trust* fame used to say, on what we mean by "difficult". If we mean more painful for all concerned, more humiliating more uncertain — that is, more law, more lawyers, more expense — then it is difficult to imagine a process more likely to redound to the disadvantage of the children of the family. Such an approach had precious few admirers when it was discarded by the Divorce Reform Act in 1969.

However, if by "difficult" we mean a process whereby the adults are required to give greater consideration to their children's interests

as a condition of their own escape, then the present law is inadequate. The 1973 Matrimonial Causes Act starts well by requiring that a decree absolute of divorce be withheld until the arrangements for the children are "satisfactory". Then, it temporises by being prepared to settle for "the best that can be devised in the circumstances", before finally abandoning any attempt to put children first by an ultimate acceptance of it being "impractical for the parties to make any such arrangements".

This matter has been prospectively "reformed" by the Children Act 1989, in that normally the court will only be required to "consider" the proposed arrangements for the children and only then if they are 16 (currently 18); not so much a reform as an acknowledgement of present inadequacy coupled with an unwillingness to do anything about it. This year, the Law Commission will present to the government its final proposals for divorce "over a period of time". The thinking is that the availability of divorce



Happy families: but when parents separate the present law does not give enough consideration to the interests of children.

should not be dependent on whether there are children but that it may be possible to use the divorce process to protect their interests.

It is children born outside marriage, whose parents do not live together, who make up the majority of those without paternal support. The government is said to have found its preferred solution in the midwest of America. In Wisconsin, DNA tests are used to establish paternity, after which the father is automatically liable

for child support and the mother cannot choose to seek it. The relevant department takes the money at source: the first big winner of the Wisconsin state lottery lost £15,000 this way.

It would not, perhaps, be too cynical to see governmental interest in these matters as being motivated as much by economic as by moral considerations — child support arrears in Britain total about £1 billion. Such suspicion might apply equally well to the recently floated idea that the

middle-aged be made legally responsible for the support of their parents. Yet, once again, the idea of society having regressed from some 19th century nirvana is not borne out by the facts.

A survey conducted in 1882 by Charles Booth, the social investigator, revealed that only 25 per cent of those aged over 65 were supported by their families; against 50 per cent in 1976, the date of the latest survey. When the government tried to challenge the poor law to make "children" take

financial responsibility for their parents, most of the younger generation managed to avoid paying.

Family lawyers, aware that their subject does more for them than it does for families, must steel themselves against the growing takeover of the "almshouse" by business by attorneys may soon be compounded by the loss of divorce to social workers and child support to civil servants.

The author is a principal lecturer in law at Staffordshire Polytechnic.

Law Report July 24 1990 Chancery Division

Function of domestic court in applying European Court decisions

Stoke-on-Trent City Council v B & Q plc

Norwich City Council v B & Q plc

Before Mr Justice Hoffmann

[Judgment July 18]

In applying the Treaty of Rome as interpreted by the Court of Justice of the European Communities, the national court had to be aware of the division of powers between the legislature and the judiciary. The court had not been endowed with quasi-legislative powers by the Treaty, its function being to review the Acts of the legislature but not to substitute its own policies and values.

In the instant case, the court would proceed on the footing that the law was clear, that there had been contraventions of section 47 of the Shops Act 1950, that the conduct complained of was criminal and that it was not for the court to decide the effect on section 47 of article 30 of the Treaty of Rome.

Mr Justice Hoffmann so

stated in the Chancery Division in giving judgment for the plaintiff city councils, Stoke-on-Trent and Norwich, who had sought injunctions under the powers conferred by section 223 of the Local Government Act 1972 to restrain the defendants, B & Q plc, from opening do-it-yourself shops in Hanley and Norwich on Sundays.

The court granted a certificate for appeal direct to the House of Lords. Pending appeal, B & Q gave undertakings to the court that it would close on Sundays for the serving of customers in Hanley and Norwich.

Mr Stuart Isaac and Mr Neil Calver for the councils; Mr David Vaughan, QC, Mr Gerald Barling, Mr Nicholas Davidson and Mr David Anderson for B & Q.

MR JUSTICE HOFFMANN said the Treaty of Rome was the supreme law of our country, taking precedence over Acts of Parliament. Our entry into the Community meant that Parliament had surrendered its sovereign right to legislate con-

trary to the provisions of the Treaty on the matters of social and economic policy which it regulated.

The entry into the Community was in itself a high act of social and economic policy, by which the partial surrender of sovereignty was seen as more than compensated by the advantages of membership.

The purpose of the Treaty was to bring about a European common market but not to interfere with national laws and customs which had not been substituted by the Treaty.

But there were many provisions in the Treaty expressed in language capable of being given a wider or narrower interpretation. According to the way they were interpreted, they might have more or less of an impact on questions of social policy which in member states were strongly felt to be matters for national decision.

It was the function of the European Court in Luxembourg to interpret the Treaty and for the national court to apply it. In

its interpretation of the Treaty, the European Court had tried to tread a careful line which permitted both boldness in advancing the objects of the Community and sensitivity to the domestic interests of member states.

In applying the Treaty as interpreted by the European Court, the national court had to be aware of another division of powers: not between European and national jurisdiction, but between legislature and judiciary.

The fact that the European Court had said that a particular question was one for decision by the national court did not endow that court with quasi-legislative powers. It had to confine itself within the area of judicial intervention required by the Treaty and not trespass on questions which were for democratic decision in Parliament.

Section 47 of the 1950 Act said that every shop, save as otherwise provided, was to close for the serving of customers on Sunday. The Fifth Schedule to the Act permitted the sales on Sunday of a miscellaneous list of goods such as newspapers, flowers and confectionery.

Article 30 of the Treaty provided: "Quantitative restrictions on imports and all measures having equivalent effect shall, without prejudice to the following provisions, be prohibited between member states."

Article 36 contained an exception for prohibitions or restrictions "justified on grounds of public morality, public policy or public security... and various other grounds but added that such prohibitions or restrictions shall not, however, constitute a means of arbitrary discrimination or disguised restriction on trade between member states."

B & Q had said that a prohibition on Sunday trading was a measure having equivalent effect to a quantitative restriction on imports because it had demonstrated through a persistent course of illegal Sunday trading over the past few years

that in do-it-yourself stores and garden centres, Sunday was the best trading day of the week. Furthermore, trade which was lost through having to close on Sundays was not recovered during the rest of the week and enforcing the law therefore caused a net fall in turnover.

No one contended that public houses should have to shut on Sundays and that meat and fish stalls should have to stay open. It would have been strange if the only restriction available on Sundays was alcoholic.

Proportionality tests

The concept of the proportionality test was that a measure should not be disproportionate to the importance of its objective. B & Q submitted that the tests were the balancing test and the necessity test; namely, (i) the restrictive effects on the free movement of goods were out of proportion to their purpose and (ii) the same objective could be attained by other means which were less of a hindrance to trade.

To assist the court in applying those tests, B & Q had provided the court with a mass of factual and expert evidence, all of which was carefully reviewed.

The division of powers

By far the most important question in the present case concerned the function of the court in applying the law. It was a case of a sovereign legislature acting to further what the European Court had held to be legitimate objectives. It was subject only to a requirement that the measure should not be disproportionate to the importance of its objective.

The question was one on which strong and differing views might be held and which had been the subject of frequent parliamentary debate.

Was the court to apply its own opinion of the importance of ensuring that shop workers did not have to work on Sundays and weigh against that the importance of selling more Dutch bulbs or Italian furniture?

In his Lordship's judgment, it was not his function to carry out the balancing exercise or to form any view on whether the legislative objective could be achieved by other means. Those questions involved promises between competing interests which in a democratic society had to be resolved by the legislature.

The duty of the court was only to enquire whether the promise adopted by the United Kingdom Parliament, so far as it affected Community trade, was one which a reasonable legislature could have reached.

The function of the court was to review the Acts of the legislature but not to substitute its own policies or values.

The powers to review Acts of Parliament were new to United Kingdom courts but familiar in countries like the United States, Canada and Australia, which had a constitution containing limitations on the powers of an otherwise sovereign legislature.

In some cases it would be apparent to the court that the legislative power had been used for an ulterior or impermissible purpose. In others, exercise of the power would be clearly invalidated by some basic error of reasoning.

But in cases in which different views were reasonably tenable, the courts had not attempted to usurp the functions of the legislature.

The court's duty now went no further than to decide whether it was a reasonably tenable view that preventing shop workers from having to work on Sundays was a sufficiently important objective to justify the consequent reduction in Community trade and that no means other than requiring shops to shut would achieve the same objective with less hindrance to trade.

Applying the proportionality tests

In passing the Shops (Sunday Trading Restrictions) Act 1936 and in refusing to accept any modifications since that date, Parliament had to be taken to have decided that the objective of preventing shop workers from being or feeling under any

that in do-it-yourself stores and garden centres, Sunday was the best trading day of the week.

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Partners advised to adapt or die

An article in the magazine *Legal Business* by Michael Simmons, a senior partner at solicitors Malkin Janers, addressed the problem of what could be done with the "unproductive partner".

"It is important to recognise that it is not a crime to be diagnosed as an unproductive partner," soothed Mr Simmons. "It may be our turn tomorrow." Unfortunately for many lawyers, tomorrow is too late. Their "unproductivity" is being diagnosed today. It is common knowledge that high street solicitors are laying off staff because of the slump in the property market. And even some of the big firms in the City are starting to feel at a loose end as commercial property and the mergers and acquisitions markets slide to a halt.

With lawyers twiddling their thumbs, management faces tough decisions. How long does one keep staff (or even partners) in the hope of an upturn? Or is it best to take the difficult decision sooner rather than later?

Critics of the legal management world argue that nobody should have been surprised by the downturn and that sensible senior and managing partners should have recognised the cyclical nature of the business and prepared for it. Lawyers, the productive resources of a law firm, ought to be re-tooled and firing at new markets with scarcely a drop in pace.

Of course some firms argue that one cannot teach an old lawyer new



Helena Twist: challenge

precedents. But there is a wealth of evidence to the contrary. A good example comes from Nabarro Nathanson, where the absorption of the legal department at the National Coal Board presented Helena Twist, the head of training, with an interesting challenge. Lawyers who had worked for the NCB for most of their careers had to be re-focused into membership of the company and commercial departments. They had to sell their services for the first time. And they now have to operate on behalf of several clients rather than just one.

Because Nabarro takes training

Versatility is the key to resolving the unproductive partner problem, reports Edward Fennell

very seriously indeed and understands the psychology of change. Ms Twist was given the resources to do a professional job with the new NCB assistant solicitors and partners. They acquired new skills, were absorbed within the Nabarro corporate culture and are now on their way to performing well in their new roles.

A similar story comes from Cameron Markby where the absorption of a much smaller firm meant that lawyers (and even partners) who had worked on private client work had to be retrained to operate in insolvency. Because the firm coordinated a retraining package and gave ample moral support and managerial back-up to lawyers in mid-career (and even very senior in their former speciality) they were able to switch direction satisfactorily.

So those firms that are being caught with inflexible lawyers and no work to occupy them have nobody to blame but themselves. By making no provision for the future, by allowing their lawyers to over-specialise and by failing to invest in retraining, they are guilty of naïveté and a wasteful attitude towards their most important resource. Should they have to make any of their lawyers redundant they will



look pretty silly a couple of years hence when the market revives and they have to pay large agency fees to re-employ the same people they are now letting go.

According to Linda Packard, a management consultant who has been working with some "top ten" law firms on their forward planning, it is vital to build in flexibility to the career planning process. It may be complex but marketing, business strategy and the career progression of individuals has to be co-ordinated. "Knowing more and more about less and less is definitely a mistake," Ms Packard says.

However specialist a solicitor may be, he needs to be encouraged to have a second string and to take part in the training taking place in that field. Allen & Overy, for example, in line with many successful firms, holds "know-how" meetings and "second stringers" are encouraged to attend these regularly.

Worst of all, Ms Packard warns, is the firm where a partnership is regarded as a sinecure for life. "Low motivation and complacency are the first signs of the truly unproductive partner," Ms Packard says. Adapt or die is the new message for those determined to survive.

INNS AND OUTS

Kenya's President Moi saved the International Bar Association's biennial conference last month. However, his actions since have forced the association to cancel its biennial conference in Kenya, due to take place in September. It has been rescheduled for New York. The association gives two reasons for the cancellation: the state of unrest which left 25 dead and many injured, leading the association to believe it could not guarantee delegates' safety, and a growing concern over the state of human rights and the rule of law in Kenya.

Had the conference gone ahead, there was a risk that the association would be lending support to a regime, which, the director Madeleine May says, "has suppressed those attempting peacefully to express their political views and exercise their internationally recognised human rights". The association has come a long way from its origins as a lawyers' club, holding tax-deductible conferences in exotic locations. It has been gradually transforming itself into a more politically aware organisation, with the power to lobby.

The Law Society is not happy about the state of the provisions relating to rights of audience in the Courts and Legal Services Bill as it completes the committee stages in both Houses of Parliament. In its latest briefing, it states: "The risk remains that after all the rhetoric of the last two years, the bill will settle very little. Progress on rights of audience could yet be frustrated by the reluctance of the judges to see the Bar's monopoly weakened."

A change in the law in Poland allows schools to be established outside the state monopoly of education. Until now, education in Poland has been tied to communist ideology. The process of change has been slow and many Polish parents are trying to establish their own schools. As Mirosława Gadomska, a member of the founding committee of one such school in Gdynia, says: "We aim to educate children in the spirit of liberty, freedom of thought and the ability to self-acquire knowledge and independence of opinion."

The community schools are struggling to find teachers trained in western methods and the funds in the country are crippled by economic problems. The Gdynia community school is determined to open its doors in September to 45 pupils aged between 11 and 12. However, as Ms Gadomska says: "We are really starting from zero, so we have to hire rooms, buy furniture, educational materials and instruments, and pay teachers." The school is seeking help from the West.

The memorial service for Sir Arthur Driver, former president of the Law Society, takes place today. Born on March 20, 1900, Sir Arthur died ten days before his 90th birthday, when he was due to present his portrait, painted by Michael Noakes, to the Law Society. Sir Arthur practised all his life with Jaques & Co, now Jaques & Lewis, and was senior partner from 1950 to 1970. His portrait will be presented to the Law Society by John Northam, the present senior partner, after the service.

Butler and its clients are all at sea — literally. The firm has organised a conference on HMS Cinderella over the three days it takes to sail from Stockholm to Helsinki and back. The lucky invitees will be wined and dined, with an opportunity for sightseeing. For those in need of rest from the entertainments, there will also be sessions on shipping litigation, insurance and maritime incidents.

SCRIVENER

The Law Society has relaxed the rules on specialisation and the naming of clients in marketing material

Publicity gates opened for solicitors

SOLICITORS in England and Wales will soon have even greater freedom to market their services. After a decision by the Law Society council last week, restrictions contained in the solicitors' practice rules will be further relaxed.

The most significant change will allow solicitors to publicise that they are specialists, a change endorsed by the society council despite attempts to block it. There were fears that if all solicitors claimed to be specialists it would undermine the society's specialist panels of members, composed of lawyers who have met criteria to confirm they have a record of expertise in the field. These panels exist in child care, mental health and insolvency, but there are plans to include personal injuries, for instance.

But as Walter Merricks, the

Law Society communications chief, said: "The other view is that specialist panels must be able to stand on their own merits and not because they are buttressed by prohibitions which stop other solicitors laying claim to specialist expertise."

Another change is that solicitors will be able to name clients in publicity material, with their permission. Previously they could name clients "in the media" (for instance, in the course of an interview), but only with the client's consent. Naming clients in advertisements was not allowed. These rules are a source of bemusement; clarity has not been a strong point and their

transgression rarely receives more than a slap on the wrist. But with the rules clarified and relaxed, how will firms take advantage of the change? Most of the medium and large law firms have adopted promotional strategies to some extent. While brochures are *de rigueur*, a backdrop rather than business winner, emphasis is often placed on building profile through press exposure. The problem, however, is reconciling "news" with what the firm wants to say.

Outside the (flourishing) legal press, there is little interest in solicitors. What does interest the general press is the prominent City client appearing in court on fraud charges or

the politician suing a tabloid for libel. Even then, the story will often appear without a mention of the solicitors.

Christopher Brannell, the society's professional ethics chief, says: "The rule changes are a matter of realism. Some of the old rules were felt to fetter a solicitor's ability to compete against other solicitors and professions. Solicitors are in the business of competition, whether they like it or not."

Provided the naming of a client makes sense and the solicitor can substantiate the claim, the change — if approved by the Master of the Rolls — will take effect on September 1. So is the way forward through publicising clients

and deals? Might it provide a chance for firms to be more pro-active for the client?

Linda Phelan, head of marketing at Timmuss Sainer and Webb, says: "We have to think whether publicising a deal is in the client's interest. If it can be justified, and if the client is happy, we will go ahead, but not otherwise."

Peter Farnen, Linklaters & Paines' public relations partner, said: "It is hard to know whether we are rooted in the 19th century or being objective, but my feeling is that the profession should be meticulous in not giving itself a vested interest or conflict in its clients' business."

Sometimes it is clients who

ask the firm to obtain publicity, although usually as advertising around a feature connected with the deal, rather than as editorial. "We have known of cases where firms have been reprimanded just for a tombstone ad," Ms Phelan says, "so we currently decline advertising when a client asks us. But in future we will be able to do that, saying we acted for the client."

While promotion through clients is approached hesitantly, it is likely that, over time, both parties will feel comfortable with the solicitor managing the press on some (non-confidential) deals. No doubt within a few years it will be seen as a perfectly reasonable way to do things.

SARAH HALL

The author is a consultant to the legal profession.

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Job description and application form available from **John Cotts**, Chief Executive's Department, County Hall, New Road, Oxford, OX1 1ND. Tel. Oxford (0865) 815436.

OXFORDSHIRE
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Our Property work continues to expand and we are therefore looking for lawyers with at least three years' experience in the commercial property field and who preferably have had particular involvement in development work.

The successful applicants will be bright, resourceful and prepared to work hard in a challenging but friendly environment. They can expect early exposure to high quality and stimulating work and will be required to achieve their best, both individually and as part of a team. Salary and prospects will be excellent.

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It is our aim to agree terms whereby the successful applicant will participate in the profits of his/her efforts at the earliest possible stage.

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Candidates should demonstrate the ability not only to draft, negotiate and advise on all types of construction documentation, but also to deal closely with clients.

For further information please telephone **Deborah Kirkman** on 071-831 2000 or write to her (enclosing a Curriculum Vitae) at **Michael Page Legal**, Page House, 39-41 Parker Street, London WC2B 5LH.

Michael Page Legal
International Recruitment ConsultantsShipping
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Our client, a leading City practice with an outstanding reputation in the field of commercial litigation, seeks to recruit shipping litigators with up to three years' specialist experience to participate in the rapid growth of its Shipping Department.

The Department has a varied and diverse international client base and can offer work of the highest quality.

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In return, successful candidates will receive an unrivalled opportunity to develop their career in the right environment for bright minds to achieve their best. If this approach to law matches your objectives, please forward your curriculum vitae (including details of current salary and benefits) to **Gary Watson LL.B** at **Michael Page Legal**, Page House,

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LEGAL APPOINTMENTS

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REQUALIFY AS A CONSULTANT

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THE COMPANY

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THE JOBS

The Corporation's Secretarial Department, which is responsible for the company's secretarial, legal, legal "helpline", pensions and related administrative matters, is seeking a Legal Assistant and a Legal Consultant.

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THE BENEFITS

The company is offering a first-class remuneration package, which includes performance-related pay, subsidised company mortgage, non-contributory pension and life assurance schemes, flexible working hours and help with relocation expenses where applicable.

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The Staff Superintendent (Head Office)
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Experience in a commercial law practice or the legal department of a financial institution desirable. Litigation experience beneficial.
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Our client is a major PLC in the energy industry, backed by significant resources and with impressive plans for growth and diversification.

The legal department is heavily involved in all aspects of commercial business activities and is key to the success and ultimate profitability of the company. The department's high profile within the company, together with increasing demands for its services, has led to the decision to appoint two experienced senior lawyers to assume demanding roles, as follows:

Head of
Commercial Law

A key role, providing commercial and legal input to major joint ventures, large construction projects and complex sales contracts. Reporting directly to the Company Secretary and Solicitor responsibilities will include:

- * advising and negotiating joint venture agreements
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- * substantial property matters
- * supervision of a team of qualified lawyers
- * fuel purchasing * energy sales.

Head of
Corporate Law

A strategic and commercial role, reporting to the Company Secretary and Solicitor, having responsibility for heavyweight corporate matters which are key to the Company's achievement of its growth objectives. Major areas of work will include:

- * participation in mergers and acquisition negotiations
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- * supervision of a team of qualified lawyers
- * management of litigation
- * technology licensing
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Both positions are challenging legal and management roles, requiring excellent technical skills and the ability to motivate and develop a small, talented team. Significant responsibility for complex, heavyweight matters will be expected from the outset.

Candidates must be able to demonstrate substantial relevant experience, together with a proven track record of success to date. Applicants will need substantial post-qualification experience at a suitable level for these demanding roles.

An excellent remuneration package is offered including a company car and a minimum of 28 days' annual holidays.

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Details will be held in the strictest confidence and will not be forwarded to our client without express prior permission.



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The Norton Rose M5 Group, the largest association of legal practices in the U.K., wishes to appoint a

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to assist with the development of services provided to clients by members of the Group. Reporting to, and working closely with, the Chief Executive, the Marketing Manager will assist in the refinement and implementation of the marketing strategy determined by the Group.

The appointment is with the company through which joint activities of the Group are organised. The company is based in Birmingham.

We offer an attractive and flexible remuneration package.

Applications are invited from those with experience of the provision or marketing of legal or other professional services. A legal qualification would be advantageous. Applicants should have strong communication skills, initiative and confidence and be willing to assume a high degree of responsibility. A friendly personality and the ability to work as a member of a small team are essential.

Applicants are invited to discuss the post informally with, and to obtain an information pack and application form from, the Chief Executive, Peter F. Smith.

The closing date for applications is Friday 17th August, 1990.

NORTON ROSE M5 GROUP

2 Priory, Queensway, Birmingham B4 6BS
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c.£30,000

Do you enjoy the challenge of solving difficult tax problems and want to improve Revenue Law? Could you tackle Revenue Law issues in an imaginative way? The Law Society is looking for a Secretary for its highly respected Revenue Law Committee which is in the vanguard of reform in this area of law.

Ideally you should have had at least 2-3 years' experience in tax work. Whether you are a solicitor or not you must be able to demonstrate the basic principles of tax law and a commitment to promote tax work in the legal profession. High intelligence and good drafting skills are essential. We need someone who enjoys working with other people.

We are happy to consider flexible working arrangements to suit the successful candidate.

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Please send a full CV to Jean Thomason, Head of Personnel and Training, The Law Society, 113 Chancery Lane, London WC2A 1PL.

Closing date for applications is Tuesday 7th August 1990.
The Law Society is committed to Equal Opportunities.



THE LAW SOCIETY

Taking the fast route

Food service is not the only thing that is fast about the quick-service restaurant sector. Recruiters seeking young talent highlight early responsibility and quick promotion as attractions in this booming industry. If you make the grade, after training and working as an assistant manager, you can be running your own restaurant within two years. A high-flyer could make faster progress.

Recruits should be entrepreneurial and have good people skills. Managers need to be high-profile active leaders. Pizza Hut, the largest pizza restaurant chain, says its trainee managers need an outgoing personality and a responsible attitude. Steven Whitecock, the company's northern regional personnel manager, says: "Our managers are not aloof people who just stand back and give orders. They will roll up their sleeves and give a hand where it is needed. Essentially, it is the manager's restaurant. Each Pizza Hut carries his or her personal stamp."

Qualifications or a knowledge of catering are not necessary for new starters. Mr Whitecock says: "It is the individual we are looking at and not the subject of their degree." He adds that a high proportion of the company's management comes up through the ranks. Previous part-time work in the field as a Saturday "crew" member would help an application.

The ability to work well in a team is vital. Mike Matthews, a regional operations manager for McDonald's and responsible for

Many graduates underestimate the potential of a management career in the fast-food restaurant sector, Derek Morgan reports

51 restaurants and 3,000 employees, says: "There is no 'them' and 'us' in the company. It is a very informal organisation and it is all Christian names. Everybody, from secretaries to department heads and accountants, works for a time at the sharp end of the business. It is a team and everyone is there to serve the customer." All companies in the sector believe in management recruits starting "in uniform", working in a restaurant. Leadership is by example: "Do as I do, not as I say." A restaurant manager's job requires a multi-skill approach. Managers are responsible for staff recruitment and training, stock control and purchasing, customer service, local marketing, promotions, budgeting, equipment maintenance, security and community initiatives. Mr Matthews says: "One of the prime responsibilities of a McDonald's manager is to make it fun to come to work. The challenge is to make it a challenge for your staff."

He sees the good side as "on-the-job decision-making every day and running a restaurant with up

to 60 employees. You are the main man or woman". The downside is the unsocial long hours, weekend working and the pressure. It is a highly competitive market and "on-the-floor" results are the bottom line for holding down a job and for promotion.

Training in the sector usually involves intensive on-the-job experience, with an initial spell as a "crew" member, along with residential weeks at management training centres. Training standards are rigorous and are strong on the psychology of motivation, but do these programmes smack of regimentation that might stifle initiative? Mr Matthews says: "All big companies need a tight corporate hold

on procedures, but the freedom is there for restaurant managers to run their businesses using their personality to motivate staff and to try something different by way of sales incentives."

A third of McDonald's managers started as hourly paid basic crew. Ethnic minorities have done well, since restaurant staffing reflects the local community.

People with drive can go up the operations route of restaurant manager, supervisor, operations manager and regional manager, or they can progress to functional responsibility in personnel, marketing or finance.

Since the main companies are all international (Pizza Hut has 6,500 restaurants in 50 countries and McDonald's is now doing well in Moscow), there are opportunities for travel and working abroad. Mr Matthews was offered a job last year as an international operations manager setting up the company's first Golden Arches sites in Portugal. Experienced managers may also get the chance to take on a company franchise.

Many high-street chains are part of wider business groups and there could be opportunities to move to other parts of the catering field. Pizza Hut is run in the UK by Whitbread and Pepsico. Mr Whitecock says there is staff movement between Whitbread's diverse activities (hotels, public house management, wine trade) at both senior and crew level. If you move out of catering altogether, you could well be in demand for your motivational and business skills, especially in retailing.

The sector acknowledges image problems in recruiting college-leavers and graduates. Mr Matthews says that this group does not always appreciate the scale of the McDonald's operation and the range of skills necessary. He points out that McDonald's is in the Dow Jones index of the top 30 companies in the United States, opens 40 new restaurants a year in the



CLARE BROGDEN works as a trainee manager at a busy McDonald's restaurant in Birmingham city centre. She joined McDonald's early this year as a management trainee after leaving an arts degree course in the second year. "I wanted to get started on a career," she says. "I felt I would be in as good a position with a year's work experience as if I'd stayed on at college."

Ms Brogden had worked evenings in McDonald's when at school and also at college, so she knew the job first-hand. "They are a very professional company with lots of openings. They do promote very much on merit, which appealed to me," she says.

She says the job offers equal opportunities. "There seem to be a lot of women going places with McDonald's. I have friends who have been promoted quickly. What about the work itself? 'It is incredibly fast-moving and quite physical. You have to be very energetic. Initially, you learn all the stations, such as food preparation, cooking, serving and cleaning, as a crew member in uniform. Working in a crew helps you to get together.' Recently she sat her promotional examination and is set to step up to second assistant manager. Her trainee salary is £10,000.

Ms Brogden acknowledges that the shift work would not suit everybody, but she enjoys the responsibility. "It is a challenging hard-working atmosphere. There is an energy 'high' she says. She thinks graduates do not treat 'fast food' as a serious career option. "People see it as a burger bar, but you are actually running a business."

UK and employs 27,000 staff here. One company response to campus image difficulties is to offer potential recruits two days' on-the-job experience working in a restaurant with no strings attached. Mr Matthews says: "It gives a chance for them to see us from the inside and we do not hide anything. We

get a great chance to look at them in our environment."

Although it is perceived as a young business, opportunities are not confined to young people. McDonald's has been running an "over 50, but not over the hill" recruitment campaign. Mr Matthews started with McDonald's in

his mid-thirties after 20 years in the merchant navy. Salaries aim to be "distinctly competitive". A McDonald's restaurant manager earns £14,000 to £20,000, as well as a 12 per cent bonus if the restaurant achieves a £1.5 million turnover. Managers get a car after 18 months.

071-481 1066

PUBLIC APPOINTMENTS

071-481 1066

DEPUTY CLERK OF LANCASHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

Salary: Up to a maximum of £55,400 per annum (Pay Award pending)

The County Council is seeking to appoint a Deputy Clerk to succeed Gordon Johnson, following his appointment as Chief Executive/Clerk of the County Council from the 1st January, 1991.

The Deputy Clerk is responsible to the Chief Executive/Clerk for the day to day management of the Chief Executive/Clerk's Department comprising some 400 staff covering a wide range of functions, including secretarial, legal, personnel, public relations and emergency planning.

Are you a solicitor with substantial management experience at a senior level in Local Government? Do you welcome a constant challenge, working under pressure and achieving results? If so, we would welcome your application.

An attractive remuneration package is offered including: Leased car/Essential User Allowance: Telephone expenses and a Relocation package of up to £3,872 (payable in approved cases.)

Application form and details available from/returnable to Office Management Section, Chief Executive/Clerk's Department, PO Box 78, Christ Church Precinct, County Hall, Preston, PR1 8XJ, quoting Ref No. 41/80/74.

Canvassing directly or indirectly will disqualify candidates.

Closing date: 8th August 1990. This post is politically restricted under the Local Government & Housing Act 1989.

Lancashire County Council

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Greenwich Health Authority

Working for a healthier community

SENIOR PROGRAMMER

District Computer Department based at Memorial Hospital Grade 6. Salary scale £11,962-£13,994 pa plus £340 London Weighting plus up to £4,300 proficiency payments. (Pay award pending).

We seek a suitably qualified and experienced person to supervise the district's programming and development needs and to advise as to Computer requirements in general.

He/she will be particularly responsible for evaluating software, developing, implementing and co-ordinating Computer Systems throughout the district.

You should have the technical ability commensurate with modern computing and system design methodologies as well as being able to communicate technically and non-technically.

Knowledge of C, Cobol, Pascal, WordPerfect, Oracle and Quattro would be an additional advantage but training will be given.

We are currently undertaking a major national and local developments in NHS computing and the successful applicant would be able to participate in these ventures. The Health Authority operates a lease car scheme.

For an informal discussion contact George Sibley 081-896 5611, ext 4750/1. Send in CV or write for application form and job description to Arthur Phillips, Personnel Manager, District Headquarters, Directorate of Finance, Memorial Hospital, Shooters Hill, London SE18 3RZ. Telephone 081-896 5611, ext 4631 (24-hour answering service).

Closing date: Friday, August 31, 1990. Interviews expected to be held in the second week of September.

Take a Positive Step!

Wandsworth Health Authority is the largest Teaching District within the South West Thames Regional Health Authority, with individual Unit Revenue Budgets larger than those of many District Health Authorities. The developments occurring within the Wandsworth finance function as a result of the Government's NHS legislation has created an unprecedented demand for individuals who possess imaginative financial management and accounting skills.

The Authority is therefore looking to strengthen its financial service by recruiting up to a dozen new full-time or part-time staff who possess these scarce and valued skills.

The posts on offer are spread across all our Service Units and cover salaries from £12,000 to £30,000, so that whatever your current background, experience and skill level it is likely that we can offer you a post to suit your individual career needs.

As the largest Authority within the Region, Wandsworth can offer you excellent opportunities for both career and professional development with the added bonus of on site social, catering and sports facilities. Our links with a local Housing Association also mean that we can offer assistance in finding suitable accommodation where required and we can also provide crèche facilities and holiday pay schemes where appropriate.

If you are a part qualified Accountant, Accountant Technician or have the necessary qualifications to register as a student with one of the recognised accounting bodies and feel that you have the energy, commitment and creative flair required to make a real impact in a progressive organisation, then we would like to meet you. Our senior finance staff will be holding an open evening so that we can informally discuss with you the financial opportunities that Wandsworth Health Authority has to offer.

If you would like to book a place on our OPEN EVENING which will be held

on Tuesday 31st July (5.00 - 8.00) please ring Christine Saunders the Director of Finance's Secretary on 081-872 1255 extension 52445

Wandsworth Health Authority

DETAILS BY PHONE

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c £17k (pay award pending) + Performance related pay + lease car

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A member of the Senior Management Team, your brief will be to lead and develop the business planning function in line with the requirements of the National Health Service White Paper 'Working for Patients'.

This challenging and exciting new role will give you the opportunity to put to use your qualifications and past experience in this changing environment. With an emphasis on contract setting you must be able to prepare and negotiate contracts, have a knowledge of

information systems and marketing, and be able to advise the Chief Metropolitan Ambulance Officer on such issues as budgets, costs, quality and information requirements.

South Yorkshire is an area which will offer you an abundance of affordable quality housing, good road and rail communication, easy access to the Peak District National Park, and excellent local services.

An application form and further details should be obtained from: The Personnel Officer, South Yorkshire Metropolitan Ambulance Service Headquarters, 'Fairfield', Moorgate Road, Rotherham S60 2BQ. Tel: 0709 628826 ext 258.

The closing date for applications is August 3, 1990.

WEST SUSSEX FAMILY PRACTITIONER COMMITTEE

BUDGET MANAGER

Salary: £20,110 + possible removal expenses

This is a newly created post resulting from the additional financial responsibilities given to FPCs as a result of recent Government White Papers.

The post holder will play a key role in establishing sound budgeting systems, the development of management accountability and financial planning required due to major changes in the methods and philosophy of funding the primary Health Care Sector of the NHS. Priority will also be given to the arrangements for internal audit, which will also be included in the post holder's responsibilities.

If you have the qualities, energy, enthusiasm and ability to meet these targets, informal enquiries will be welcomed by Bernard Dowling, Director of Administration and Finance, on 0243 784441 Ext 125.

For a job description and further information, please contact Nicky Channon, Personnel Officer, West Sussex FPC, 175 Broyle Road, Chichester PO19 4AD. Applications by CV to Mrs Channon at this address. Closing date: 3 August 1990.

LEICESTERSHIRE HEALTH AUTHORITY

CHIEF INTERNAL AUDITOR

Salary: c£22,000pa

Heading the Audit Department of the County's largest Authority, the task will involve strategic development, drawing up and managing Audit Programmes, reviewing contracts and stimulating cost effectiveness throughout a combined budget of £225m revenue.

The Authority offers an atmosphere for the application of high professional and managerial standards and the locality offers space, amenity and quality of life.

Following the issue of the White Paper, the National Health Service is facing an exciting period of major change. If you are a qualified accountant with experience of audit and are attracted by the opportunity and a challenge presented by this post then contact Arthur Binns, Director of Finance, Leicestershire Health Authority for an informal discussion or District Personnel Division, 20-29 Princess Road West, Leicester (Tel: 0533 558777 ext 8617), for an application form and job description.

Closing date: July 18, 1990.

Interviews will be held on July 27, 1990. (Please advise if this date conflicts with holiday arrangements.)

Working towards equal opportunities

LEGAL APPOINTMENTS

Continued From Previous Page

THE UNIVERSITY OF AUCKLAND New Zealand

THREE LECTURERS IN LAW Department of Law

The Department at present consists of 5 Professors, 5 Associate Professors, 11 Senior Lecturers and 5 Lecturers. It teaches a range of courses from undergraduate to Masters and PhD levels.

As a result of a planned increase in student intake for 1991, three additional Lecturerships have become available.

Applicants should have advanced qualifications. It is desirable that applicants have an interest in teaching and research in one of the compulsory subjects in Law (Civil, Criminal, Contract, Public Law, Property Law or Private Law or Equity). However, applicants with an interest in any area of the law should not be deterred from applying.

The successful applicants will be required to teach and to undertake research. Commencing salary will be established within the range NZ\$36,000 - NZ\$47,300 per annum.

Conditions of Appointment and Method of Application are available from the Department of Law, University of Auckland, Private Bag, Auckland, New Zealand. Applications should be forwarded as soon as possible, but not later than the closing date 10 September 1990.

The University of Auckland

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SENIOR solicitor to handle "wet" work. Must have 5 years experience for major and small claims. Also two or three solicitors with strong experience for varied cases. Please telephone: Mrs Patricia Langford 071-643-2360 (West Eight Level).

PRESTIGIOUS West End practice is looking for a Partner to head up Trust, Probate and Tax Department. Salary will naturally reflect the high quality of candidates. Please telephone: Mrs Pamela Handford 071-643-2360 (West Eight Level).

مكاتب المحاماة

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Director

Salary

Objectives. The Finance Director will play a key role in implementing these developments and in providing investment advice and directing purchasing policies. This offers an environment of variety and wide-ranging satisfactions, with genuine scope for influencing the College's development by using your skills in an innovative and creative fashion.

Applicants should be able to demonstrate real achievement and sound experience in the fields of finance, investment and information technology. The position, based in London, manages staff in both London and Cardiff and will involve some travelling.

Write in confidence with full career details and current salary to Mrs. S. A. Fayers, General Secretary's Office, Royal College of Nursing, 20 Levenshild Square, London W1M 0AB. Please quote reference RCN/590. Closing date: 9th August 1990.

Equal and No Smoking policies

**UNIVERSITY OF SURREY
LECTURER IN LAW**

Applications are invited for a lectureship in Law in the Department of Linguistic and International Studies. The successful candidate will be responsible for the teaching of Criminal Law and the Law of Tort to students reading for a master degree in Law and Language studies. The appointment will be initially for one year, renewable resources permitting.

Further particulars may be obtained from the Law Secretary, LIS Department, University of Surrey, Guildford, GU2 5XH, or telephone 0483 571361 ext 2822. Letters of application, which should enclose a C.V. and include the names and addresses of two referees, should be sent by Friday 17 August to the same address.

THE TIMES
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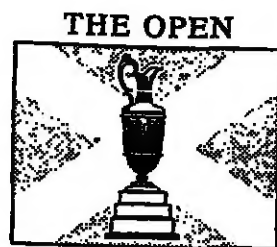
Record crowds will not pave way for an all-ticket Open

THE Open Championship at St Andrews will make around £300,000 less profit than was hoped because of the strength of the pound, Michael Bonallack, the Royal and Ancient Club secretary, said yesterday that all television contracts had been negotiated in dollars, and that will hit the amount of money that will be made.

"The exchange rate has gone against us and the lost income against our original budget is about £300,000," he said.

The 119th Open, which cost £3.5 million to stage, should enable about £1.5 million to be put back into the sport, however, and it will still be regarded as a huge success. Over 200,000 people attended, and Saturday's crowd figure of nearly 44,000 was a record.

"We knew we were going to get a very large crowd and we did," Graeme Simmers, chair-



ST ANDREWS

man of the championship committee, said. "They were very knowledgeable and very well behaved, even if the charge down the 18th at the end was not perfectly planned."

Nick Faldo did to break into a run to avoid the crush as he approached the 18th green, but by then he was five shots ahead, and the circling of the green by spectators might not have been allowed if the climax had been much tighter.

David Hill, the champ-

ionship secretary, praised the job done by between 600 and 700 marshals — all from local clubs — around the Old Course. "I don't think people realise how much work goes into organising things," he said. "We always pride ourselves on the fact that we don't have a heavy police presence."

There are no plans to follow the example of the Ryder Cup and make the Open all-ticket. "A father can bring his son to watch the Open and that's how it should be," Simmers said. "We had just about the maximum number we can cope with here, but we don't want to go all-ticket because of the problem we could then face with the black market."

The stands around the course were able to seat approximately 22,000 people, 10,000 of them by the 1st and 18th holes, and one thing the Royal and Ancient may consider for the return of the event to the home of golf in six years' time is an increase in the number of mounds.

Faldo's winning score of 270, 18 under and the lowest at St Andrews by six strokes, prompted comments that the historic course, unaltered for nearly 80 years, is too easy. Bonallack said: "Players are much more proficient now and the balls they use are so good aerodynamically, but we can't alter the Old Course. The object of the exercise, though, is to find the best golfer in the world, and there is no question that this week did that."



Dashing for success: competitors in the 50-metre sprint head for the tape in determined style at the Special Olympics in Glasgow yesterday

Taste of success for emerging sportsmen

By ALIX RAMSAY

FOR most of the athletes taking part in the Special Olympics in Glasgow, the experience represents a personal first: their first trip abroad, their first international competition, and their first taste of success.

For the Soviet Union's team of 24 athletes, the games represent a new experience for the country. This is the USSR's first involvement with the Special Olympic Games and it was only in the last five months that they set up a Soviet Special Olympics Organisation.

Over the last 25 years the fate of mentally handicapped children and adults in the Soviet

Union has been governed by the Institute of Defectology — the name summing up the general attitude to mental handicap. Placed in special schools and institutions, handicapped people had no place in the mainstream of society, but now the aim is to bring them back and integrate them into Soviet life.

The USSR delegation is led by Natalia Sladkova, general secretary of the Soviet Federation for Sport for the Disabled. "It is difficult for us to change attitudes very quickly," she said. "Our society is such that these people are not accepted. People see someone with a handicap and think what did this man do wrong? But there is a strong

possibility that these barriers will come down and we believe that sports can do this. "Last year in Glasgow you have 2,300 athletes and 2,000 volunteers. The athletes need the help of the volunteers and it is good for them to become used to working with able-bodied people. But they are interdependent. They are both working for a common goal, to stage the Olympics."

Sladkova believes it is not the athletes who need to be rehabilitated but Soviet society. That process began when three specialists visited America to observe the Special Games in the Virginia in February 1989. From the trip they learned how the Special Olympics move-

ment assessed levels of handicap and trained coaches to work with the athletes. From that experience came the first Soviet national games held earlier this year. "It was small, but there were representatives from all the Soviet republics," Sladkova said. "We were able to show people from schools all over the Soviet Union, and however small, what they could do and what they could achieve."

Now making their debut at the European Games, the Soviet team is being followed by a film crew making a documentary for state television. "Last year for the first time we showed a little of the Winter Special Olympics from America," Sladkova said.

"The interest in it was great. Now we hope this second documentary will help even more to change the attitudes and impressions of mental handicap."

The Soviets have brought their national youth gymnastics champion, Vladislav Galimov, and he epitomises the new attitudes Sladkova hopes will spread across the country. City coaching clinics for special-ist coaches, this is Galimov's first encounter with the mentally handicapped.

"I think this work is important. It all helps people with a handicap to feel like a normal person in society, and means they don't feel like second-class citizens," he said.

Leaks end Tolkien's solo quest

By KEITH WHEATLEY

RICHARD Tolkien has pulled out of the solo BOC Round the World Race. He decided after sailing to France and back last weekend that his new 60ft water-bellasted monohull has too many problems to attempt a 26,000 mile race beginning in only eight weeks.

"We're just not going to be ready in time," said Tolkien, aged 35, who is an investment banker. His problems centre on the two huge tanks which contain over 1,000 gallons of water ballast. Once offshore, leaks began to fill the bilges of the high-tech yacht.

"You can't sail round the world in a boat that's filling up with water and we haven't enough days left to put things right. I've put a year of my life into this and it makes me very angry," he said.

The boat was built at Exmouth by Spud Rowell and Philip Morrison. A planned launch date of March 1 was delayed until late May. Only last week Tolkien announced major sponsorship from Morgan Grenfell, the city bank that employs him.

His withdrawal leaves Britain without an entry in class one of the race, which will have 25 entrants and starts from Newport, Rhode Island, on September 15. Josh Hall, sailing Spirit of Ipswich, in class two will now be Britain's major hope.

The abrupt departure of Valdemar Bandolowski has left Denmark's America's Cup challenge in disarray. Bandolowski formed the challenge in 1987 with the backing of Tuborg and set up a major project office outside Copenhagen.

A statement from the group spoke of "policy differences" between the two sides. Bandolowski was impatient with budgetary restraints.

Helpful wind lets down Bashford

By BARRY PICKTHALL

IAN Bashford, the Australian winner of Sunday's practice race for the Rothmans 24 world championship, had victory snatched from him during the last stages of the first race after leading throughout yesterday's skirmish off Dun Laoghaire, Ireland.

Bashford and his crew made the best of the Force 5 winds experienced at the start and built up what appeared to be an unassailable three-and-a-half-minute lead over the American, Jim Brady, at the final turning mark.

It was the wind, however, which also proved his undoing, for as the breeze died to a gentler Force 3, the Australian became so engrossed in covering Brady that he allowed the third placed boat, skippered by Dave Currie, to sail a blistering last leg to snatch the winning gun. To

make matters worse, the disoriented Bashford was then pipped at the line by Brady's give the Americans a one, two sweep over the 62-strong fleet.

It was also a disappointing day for the British. Glyn Charles, sailing Mister Beaujeu, was the sole UK entry in a top ten dominated by American sailors. Charles ended the day in eighth place followed by Paddy Atkinson in 14th. David Bedford, the British champion, sailing Perpetua, who set sail in the morning in such high spirits, returned, a little more than just dejected by his 40th placing.

RESULTS: First Race: 1. D Currie (N. J. US); 2. J Brady (USA); 3. I Bashford (Australia); 4. P Atkinson (UK); 5. D Bedford (UK); 6. P Atkinson (UK); 7. J Brady (USA); 8. P Atkinson (UK); 9. D Bedford (UK); 10. J Brady (USA).

RESULTS: Second Race: 1. D Currie (N. J. US); 2. J Brady (USA); 3. I Bashford (Australia); 4. P Atkinson (UK); 5. D Bedford (UK); 6. P Atkinson (UK); 7. J Brady (USA); 8. P Atkinson (UK); 9. D Bedford (UK); 10. J Brady (USA).

RESULTS: Third Race: 1. D Currie (N. J. US); 2. J Brady (USA); 3. I Bashford (Australia); 4. P Atkinson (UK); 5. D Bedford (UK); 6. P Atkinson (UK); 7. J Brady (USA); 8. P Atkinson (UK); 9. D Bedford (UK); 10. J Brady (USA).

RESULTS: Fourth Race: 1. D Currie (N. J. US); 2. J Brady (USA); 3. I Bashford (Australia); 4. P Atkinson (UK); 5. D Bedford (UK); 6. P Atkinson (UK); 7. J Brady (USA); 8. P Atkinson (UK); 9. D Bedford (UK); 10. J Brady (USA).

RESULTS: Fifth Race: 1. D Currie (N. J. US); 2. J Brady (USA); 3. I Bashford (Australia); 4. P Atkinson (UK); 5. D Bedford (UK); 6. P Atkinson (UK); 7. J Brady (USA); 8. P Atkinson (UK); 9. D Bedford (UK); 10. J Brady (USA).

RESULTS: Sixth Race: 1. D Currie (N. J. US); 2. J Brady (USA); 3. I Bashford (Australia); 4. P Atkinson (UK); 5. D Bedford (UK); 6. P Atkinson (UK); 7. J Brady (USA); 8. P Atkinson (UK); 9. D Bedford (UK); 10. J Brady (USA).

RESULTS: Seventh Race: 1. D Currie (N. J. US); 2. J Brady (USA); 3. I Bashford (Australia); 4. P Atkinson (UK); 5. D Bedford (UK); 6. P Atkinson (UK); 7. J Brady (USA); 8. P Atkinson (UK); 9. D Bedford (UK); 10. J Brady (USA).

RESULTS: Eighth Race: 1. D Currie (N. J. US); 2. J Brady (USA); 3. I Bashford (Australia); 4. P Atkinson (UK); 5. D Bedford (UK); 6. P Atkinson (UK); 7. J Brady (USA); 8. P Atkinson (UK); 9. D Bedford (UK); 10. J Brady (USA).

RESULTS: Ninth Race: 1. D Currie (N. J. US); 2. J Brady (USA); 3. I Bashford (Australia); 4. P Atkinson (UK); 5. D Bedford (UK); 6. P Atkinson (UK); 7. J Brady (USA); 8. P Atkinson (UK); 9. D Bedford (UK); 10. J Brady (USA).

RESULTS: Tenth Race: 1. D Currie (N. J. US); 2. J Brady (USA); 3. I Bashford (Australia); 4. P Atkinson (UK); 5. D Bedford (UK); 6. P Atkinson (UK); 7. J Brady (USA); 8. P Atkinson (UK); 9. D Bedford (UK); 10. J Brady (USA).

RESULTS: Eleventh Race: 1. D Currie (N. J. US); 2. J Brady (USA); 3. I Bashford (Australia); 4. P Atkinson (UK); 5. D Bedford (UK); 6. P Atkinson (UK); 7. J Brady (USA); 8. P Atkinson (UK); 9. D Bedford (UK); 10. J Brady (USA).

RESULTS: Twelfth Race: 1. D Currie (N. J. US); 2. J Brady (USA); 3. I Bashford (Australia); 4. P Atkinson (UK); 5. D Bedford (UK); 6. P Atkinson (UK); 7. J Brady (USA); 8. P Atkinson (UK); 9. D Bedford (UK); 10. J Brady (USA).

RESULTS: Thirteenth Race: 1. D Currie (N. J. US); 2. J Brady (USA); 3. I Bashford (Australia); 4. P Atkinson (UK); 5. D Bedford (UK); 6. P Atkinson (UK); 7. J Brady (USA); 8. P Atkinson (UK); 9. D Bedford (UK); 10. J Brady (USA).

RESULTS: Fourteenth Race: 1. D Currie (N. J. US); 2. J Brady (USA); 3. I Bashford (Australia); 4. P Atkinson (UK); 5. D Bedford (UK); 6. P Atkinson (UK); 7. J Brady (USA); 8. P Atkinson (UK); 9. D Bedford (UK); 10. J Brady (USA).

RUGBY LEAGUE

Widnes in record loss last season

By KEITH MACKLIN

DESPITE their Premiership Trophy success, Widnes lost a record £62,000 last season, after making a £48,000 profit in the previous year. The loss is primarily attributed to heavy payments on contracts and transfers.

Widnes spent more than £400,000 in payments and transfers, which included the former Welsh rugby union international, John Devereux. Widnes paid £110,000 to Halifax in January for the back-row forward, Les Holliday.

However, the balance sheet up to May 31 does not include two recent departures from Naughton Park, the forwards, Mike O'Neill and Derek Pyke, who went to Rochdale Hornets and Oldham respectively for a combined total of £120,000.

The champions, Wigan, provide a stern test for Sheffield Eagles on the opening day of the 1990/91 championship season, which begins on Sunday September 9.

Newly-promoted Rochdale Hornets travelled to Wakefield Trinity to begin their first division, while Hull Kings played a friendly against Featherstone Rovers and Oldham play host to Leeds.

TENNIS

Durie's form lifts Cup team

From BARRY WOOD IN ATLANTA

GREAT Britain's opening round of the 1990 Federation Cup was postponed by 24 hours yesterday, so relieving Ann Jones, the team captain, of a headache. With the Davis Cup, a world ranking, and that is a 14-year-old Joelle Schach and the 14-year-old Natalia Garcia do not count in world terms.

Another embarrassment, similar to the one suffered by Indonesia two years ago, is unlikely.

Durie's performance in Newport, in which she twice served for the title against the world No. 7, Arantxa Sanchez-Vicario, drew praise from the top seed's coach, Mike Estep. He considered that Durie had played

better than at any time in her career. Her form will give confidence to the Federation Cup team.

Durie's showing at Newport, together with her performance at Eastbourne, even in losing to Gretchen Magers, an eventual finalist, and her wins in December, over Natalia Zvereva and Sandra Cecchini, gives cause for optimism.

FEDERATION CUP: Preliminary round: Israel vs Ireland, 2-0 (Israel won first 1-0; Ireland won second 1-0). 1st Round: 1. A. Sanchez-Vicario vs J. Schach, 2-0; 2. A. Sanchez-Vicario vs J. Schach, 2-0; 3. A. Sanchez-Vicario vs J. Schach, 2-0; 4. A. Sanchez-Vicario vs J. Schach, 2-0; 5. A. Sanchez-Vicario vs J. Schach, 2-0; 6. A. Sanchez-Vicario vs J. Schach, 2-0; 7. A. Sanchez-Vicario vs J. Schach, 2-0; 8. A. Sanchez-Vicario vs J. Schach, 2-0; 9. A. Sanchez-Vicario vs J. Schach, 2-0; 10. A. Sanchez-Vicario vs J. Schach, 2-0; 11. A. Sanchez-Vicario vs J. Schach, 2-0; 12. A. Sanchez-Vicario vs J. Schach, 2-0; 13. A. Sanchez-Vicario vs J. Schach, 2-0; 14. A. Sanchez-Vicario vs J. Schach, 2-0; 15. A. Sanchez-Vicario vs J. Schach, 2-0; 16. A. Sanchez-Vicario vs J. Schach, 2-0; 17. A. Sanchez-Vicario vs J. Schach, 2-0; 18. A. Sanchez-Vicario vs J. Schach, 2-0; 19. A. Sanchez-Vicario vs J. Schach, 2-0; 20. A. Sanchez-Vicario vs J. Schach, 2-0; 21. A. Sanchez-Vicario vs J. Schach, 2-0; 22. A. Sanchez-Vicario vs J. Schach, 2-0; 23. A. Sanchez-Vicario vs J. Schach, 2-0; 24. A. Sanchez-Vicario vs J. Schach, 2-0; 25. A. Sanchez-Vicario vs J. Schach, 2-0; 26. A. Sanchez-Vicario vs J. Schach, 2-0; 27. A. Sanchez-Vicario vs J. Schach, 2-0; 28. A. Sanchez-Vicario vs J. Schach, 2-0; 29. A. Sanchez-Vicario vs J. Schach, 2-0; 30. A. Sanchez-Vicario vs J. Schach, 2-0; 31. A. Sanchez-Vicario vs J. Schach, 2-0; 32. A. Sanchez-Vicario vs J. Schach, 2-0; 33. A. Sanchez-Vicario vs J. Schach, 2-0; 34. A. Sanchez-Vicario vs J. Schach, 2-0; 35. A. Sanchez-Vicario vs J. Schach, 2-0; 36. A. Sanchez-Vicario vs J. Schach, 2-0; 37. A. Sanchez-Vicario vs J. Schach, 2-0; 38. A. Sanchez-Vicario vs J. Schach, 2-0; 39. A. Sanchez-Vicario vs J. Schach, 2-0; 40. A. Sanchez-Vicario vs J. Schach, 2-0; 41. A. Sanchez-Vicario vs J. Schach, 2-0; 42. A. Sanchez-Vicario vs J. Schach, 2-0; 43. A. Sanchez-Vicario vs J. Schach, 2-0; 44. A. Sanchez-Vicario vs J. Schach, 2-0; 45. A. Sanchez-Vicario vs J. 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SPORT

Champion pursues perfection

By MITCHELL PLATT, GOLF CORRESPONDENT

NICK Faldo's triumph over the hallowed links of the Old Course at St Andrews won him more than a fourth major title and a cheque for £85,000. Faldo's five-stroke success in the 119th Open Championship at the home of golf on Sunday earned him the respect of a nation surprised to learn that he is unpopular in some quarters.

Yet not even his severest critic could fail to be impressed by the way that the once truculent Faldo has learned to manage his life to become the best known sportsman in Britain. He surpassed himself at St Andrews, side-stepping the assaults on his personality to concentrate solely on winning the title for a second time.

Faldo may have been at times curiously aloof and alarmingly candid. But throughout his career from an amateur to the model, and wonderfully successful, professional golfer of today, he has never shown a sign of malicious intent.

When, in his formative years as a professional, he reported Sandy Lyle for a breach of the rules it was out of commitment to the game rather than a criticism of his rival. Faldo felt he was doing his duty.

It is the word commitment which best illustrates Faldo. He has left nothing to chance since the age of 11, when his parents, George and Joyce, presented him with a racing bicycle. The young Faldo locked himself in the garage, stripped the machine down and reassembled it so that he was sure it was ready for road racing.

He has always expected there to be no substitute for diligence in the search for perfection. He hired David Leadbetter because he saw in the British-born teacher a person to whom he could relate. Faldo's obsession for success ignited Leadbetter's enthusiasm. They stand together for hours on the practice range, seeking what could be viewed the ultimate explanation of golf. Faldo is not so much interested in why he hits a poor shot, he wants to know why he hits a good one. This year Faldo has worked on creating more torque and more coil in his swing. The key was to move the club back to the eight o'clock position and to feel the butt of the club closer to his right thigh. He sets up slightly steeper, with the elbows spread a little wider, enabling him to wind and coil to get onto his right side with the club a little squarer to the top rather than too down. It makes him feel taller at impact.

Faldo was entitled to feel taller yesterday morning. He has won two Masters and two Open championships in three years, an achievement unsurpassed in the history of British golf. He is the best

golfer of his generation and possibly the best British golfer of all time.

Faldo is naturally reserved when it comes to discussing the number of major championships he might win, although I would not put it beyond him to take his tally to ten before he has finished.

Faldo has suggested he will go hard at it for the next ten years, although that may be optimistic. He is 33 years old with 15 years as a professional behind him; five years might be more realistic.

The clue to Faldo's continued success lies in his self-motivation. There are no question marks when it comes to ability, as he showed at St Andrews by destroying Greg Norman in the third round. Coral, the bookmakers, make him 9-2 to become the first player in history to win the Masters, Open and US PGA Championship in the same year.

In 1984, Faldo's hopes of winning at Shesh Creek, where the US PGA takes place again next month, were ended when his ball found a watery grave at the 18th in the final round. His main obstacle next month may be the hot and humid conditions rather than his rivals. Norman will need to dispel thoughts that he is not meant to add to his one major championship and Severiano Ballesteros, who has one more title to his credit than Faldo but who missed the cut at St Andrews, must rediscover the inspiration which has deserted him.

Yet the desire to improve remains with Faldo. He wants to learn to draw the ball from right to left with greater ease and he wants to increase his repertoire of shots. He has absolute faith in Leadbetter and together they will work to keep Faldo at the top.

Faldo will reduce the number of tournaments in which he competes next year from 30 to 25 and he will also take two months off in the winter. He does not intend to play prior to the US PGA Championship, which starts on August 9, but will appear in the Panason European Open at Sunningdale, the Sunbury World Match Play at West-worth and the Dunhill Cup at St Andrews. He might also return to play for England in the World Cup of Golf, which would revitalise that event, with Sandy Lyle and Ian Woosnam as possible for Scotland and Wales respectively.

Their problem then might be that the phenomenal Faldo will be rested and ready to win. He intends to take time off with his family and to enjoy some fishing.

The only mistake he may have made over the last two years is to let go the chance of buying a stretch of the River Test for £400,000. It is valued today at £2 million. But he is not only the best golfer in the world — he is also human.



Smiling champion: Nick Faldo enjoys the morning after feeling in company with the priceless old claret jug

Faldo to launch academy

By MITCHELL PLATT

NICK Faldo is to launch his own academy, with a series of golf ranges offering child proteges the opportunity to open the door to championship glory.

The "Golf For All" campaign will begin at seven sites, five in London boroughs, with children from local schools offered free tuition.

"I'm very excited by the project, especially as we've come so far so quickly," Faldo said. "The councils we've spoken to have loved the idea. They are all very enthusiastic."

The future for me will very much include designing golf courses, but I'm not only interested in the top end. It's very important that we give

people, especially children, from all walks of life the chance to play this great game.

"The driving ranges will do that, although it will not be a case of a mat and a bucket of balls. What we are looking to do is to create a superior facility, with a futuristic look. Then the kids can get the best possible start."

"I was 14 when I started to play the game seriously and I had to practice on the school playing fields. In my early days at Welwyn Garden City Golf Club it was often a case of sneaking a hole here and there because as a junior I had no rights to play the course and as far as the practice range was concerned I couldn't hit more than a five-iron.

"I want our ranges to give

everyone the opportunity to improve, and youngsters the chance to at least decide if they have an aptitude for the game."

Faldo will use his expertise to create nine-hole courses around the driving ranges which will be set in areas of 70 to 100 acres. John Simpson, who handles Faldo's affairs for the International Management Group, pointed out that the Bride Hall property company, to whom Faldo is attached, will be responsible for construction.

"The deal, of course, has to be commercially viable, which it is, but the bottom line for Nick is that youngsters, especially in the cities, should get the chance to play," Simpson said. "We have also

spoken to authorities in the northeast and Scotland.

"Quality will be the key. I've been to Japan to see how good their ranges are. It struck me as being a good idea and Nick and I are very encouraged by the response so far from all the boroughs and councils we have spoken to."

Faldo's regard for children's welfare was highlighted when he gave his prize-money of £100,000 from the Sunbury World Match Play Championship last year to four charities for children. He is also to make a video, supported by Westatix, to educate children on how best to get started on the etiquette of the game and how to go about improving their swing.

Morris makes merry with fluent century

By SIMON WILDE

PORTSMOUTH (second day of three): Hampshire, with five second-innings wickets in hand, are 180 runs ahead of Derbyshire.

JOHN Morris, who is expected to make his England debut in the first Test against India at Lord's on Thursday, prepared for an occasion he has long awaited with an authoritative unbeaten 157 for Derbyshire yesterday.

He spent four hours and 10 minutes over his fifth first-class century this season, which saw him pass 1,000 runs, to suggest he has the stature for the international game.

Although it might seem a lofty comparison, Morris resembles in technique no one so much as Graeme Hick, another who has long-term plans to make the England No. 3 position his own. Morris occupies the crease with the same quiet determination.

After Chris Smith had been in the second over of the innings, Gower spent some time making three runs, while the more aggressive Robin Smith went for 37 and a half-century. Morris, who is a friend of the Caribbean batsman, Bishop, A stand of 94 between the batsman and Marshall kept Hampshire prospects alive for the third day.

Neither Morris nor Bowler, who scored only a single in 50 minutes, took many risks when the day began. They were scarcely in any trouble, though, and it was a surprise when Bowler, having seen the partnership add 107, was caught at the wicket by Parks, standing up to Ayling.

Morris, sensing the opportunity for a long innings, began to open up, but both he and his side were given a rude awakening by the return of Marshall, Marshall, who is in his last year in county cricket, has consistently shown that he is not prepared to go quietly. The spells he bowled either side of lunch yesterday, as well as the way he battled later in the day, were eloquent testimony to his resolve.

The wickets of Roberts, caught behind fencing outside off stump, in his first over encouraged Marshall to employ five slips and a gully.

They were warranted but unwanted as Adams, after a hostile reception, was also caught at the wicket by Barnett, whose back injury on Saturday had prevented him coming in earlier, was bowled by a superb back-foot Krikorian, meanwhile, has been taken at silly mid-wicket by Roberts.

Hampshire had suffered 228 for six, but Morris, having been severely tested by some short balls from Marshall, had survived. He showed his good hand, for Marshall's wicket was drawn by taking four boundaries, but the first one from the crease, a four, was a full-blooded drive, and he had a second-century prospect alive for the third day.

When Hampshire were again two of England's middle-order batsmen, the forthcoming Test enjoyed successful preparations.

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Hampshire v Derbyshire
Hampshire: 1st Innings 307 and 2nd 228.
Derbyshire: 1st Innings 180 and 2nd 180.

Second Innings
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Botham set posier by tour selectors

By ALAN LEE, CRICKET CORRESPONDENT

ENGLAND'S preliminary party for the winter tour of Australia is anything but a short-list, numbering 43 with power to add, but it does include some revealing names, including the old warhorse himself, Ian Botham.

Botham, who will be 35 in November, has received a letter enquiring about his availability for the four-and-a-half-month tour. This is a giant step from actually being selected, which in Botham's case still seems unlikely, but it might encourage him to believe in a romantic fifth and final trip to the country where he has been hero and villain in about equal proportion.

Replies to the Test and County Cricket Board letters are required by August 3 but

Botham does have a problem. He is committed to another charity walk in October, provisionally scheduled to finish after the England party has flown out.

The selectors have gone through this checking routine for some years now, but this is the first time they have made their choices public. They have done so, however, with the rider that further names could follow inside three weeks, and no one is discounted.

Of those included, Warren Hegg, of Lancashire, has emerged as the new wicket-keeping challenge to Jack Russell and there is recognition for the talented trio of youngsters at Middlesex: Mike Roseberry, Mark Ramprakash and Phil Tufnell.

PRELIMINARY TOUR PARTY

Nottinghamshire: J A Afford, E E Hemmings, P Johnson, Lancashire: M A Atherton, P A J DeFreitas, N H Fairbrother, W G Hegg, Northamptonshire: R J Bailey, D J Capel, A J Lamb, W Lush, Kent: M R Benson, A P Ilegedien, Surrey: D Biondini, M P Bicknell, K G Medhurst, A J Stewart, G P Thorpe, Yorkshire: R J Blakey, A A Metcalfe, M A Moxon, Worcestershire: I T Botham, R A Illingworth, P J

Newport: S J Rhodes, Gloucestershire: R C Fraser, R R Ramprakash, Hampshire: P C R Turner, N P Williams, Essex: G A Gooch, N H Hussain, D R Prince, J P Stanger, Kent: D Biondini, D J Capel, R A Smith, Gloucestershire: G V Lane, Kent: C Russell, Derbyshire: C G Lewis (Leicestershire), D A Houghton, J E Morris, Warwickshire: S M, Glamorgan: S L Watkins.

Taylor prepares way for his successor

By DENNIS SIGBY

WITHIN minutes of confirming the appointment of Lawrie McMenemy, the former Sunderland and Southampton manager, as his full-time assistant on a four-year contract, Graham Taylor yesterday announced details of a new structure that could eventually unearth his successor as the England manager.

Taylor, starting his second week in office, said that McMenemy, aged 53, whose title will be manager's assistant, would oversee the England B and Under-21 teams, and provide him with day-to-day support.

Different people would be introduced during the months ahead, young managers or experienced internationals nearing the end of the careers, to help with coaching "to get a smell of international foot-

ball". This would start with the under-21 game against Hungary in September, and would be the first stage of trying to create a structure that could make it easier to find a successor for Taylor with experience of international football.

This experiment could involve using senior players of the Bobby Robson era, such as Peter Shilton, who has announced his retirement as an international goalkeeper, or Bryan Robson.

Taylor, who said last week he planned to be the most track-suited manager England has appointed, said he would have a senior person with him on a regular basis for the full England team, although this would not be a full-time appointment.

Questioned about Don Howe, the Queen's Park Rangers coach, who was an

assistant to the previous managers, Bobby Robson and Ron Greenwood, Taylor said: "It may be we carry on as we were," but he did not intend to make an immediate decision on that role, or the other match-to-match personnel, such as medical staff.

Taylor, who plans to visit players at their clubs and, hopefully, conduct coaching sessions with internationals, said that he and McMenemy would also consider establishing a constant scouting system throughout the country to monitor players.

Of the appointment of McMenemy, Taylor said he had always felt an England manager should have an assistant. "We all know it can be a lonely job," he said. "You need a shoulder to cry on and I can't think of a bigger should-

er than Lawrie's. You need someone to bounce off, an experienced man."

Since leaving Sunderland, McMenemy has been involved in football through the media, as a member of Football League transfer tribunals, as manager of a League Under-19 team that visited the Soviet Union, and as a part-time scout for Chesterfield, where his son, Chris McMenemy, is assistant manager.

Taylor said football tended to drop people easily. "We are very nasty to each other," he said. "We forget people, many like Lawrie, with tremendous knowledge. We cast them aside too early in England. One or two bigger clubs might have benefited from his experience, but people are wary and might have thought he would take control."

New mood in football is just a flight of fancy

STEVE ACTESON on two companies not prepared to go Dutch with football

A MOOD of optimism has prevailed in English football since the World Cup finals in Italy. The threat of hooliganism appeared to have diminished during a relatively quiet tournament off the pitch; UEFA had even re-admitted English clubs into European competition.

Today that optimism seems misplaced. A leading club which enjoys an almost exemplary record in terms of crowd behaviour has lost a lucrative and long term sponsor. Football may believe the hooligan problem has gone away; yesterday more objective and hard-nosed observers disagreed.

Continued trouble-making by England supporters in Italy has prompted KLM, the Dutch airline, and the Netherlands Board of Tourism (NBT) to decide against extending their joint three-year sponsorship of Queen's Park Rangers. Barry Evans, KLM's deputy general manager in London, said that the incidents involving English

supporters during the World Cup had been "the last straw."

"I was out there for a good while myself. Everywhere there was an incident it seemed to involve England supporters; not the Irish, not the Scots, not the Brazilians but always the English."

"We recognise that the problem is not only in the UK, football hooliganism is not good in the Netherlands either. But it is here in the UK that we are trying to promote our product and the problem is still bad enough to have made us decide that soccer is not a sport that we want to be associated with any longer."

The KLM/NBT decision, and particularly the financial implications, will cause disquiet throughout the boardrooms of the 92

Football League clubs and within the game's governing bodies. It is something of an irony that the club to suffer in this way for the sins of the lunatic fringe is QPR, which has rarely experienced problems.

Clive Berlin, the club's managing director, was surprised at the KLM/NBT withdrawal. He found it hard to accept given the relatively good behaviour of English supporters in Italy and, in particular, the trouble-free group match between England and the Netherlands in Cagliari. "I suspect this decision has been taken more over anything that goes on in Holland than here and certainly not over anything that has gone on at Loftus Road."

He will be more surprised at the stern view taken by the Dutch companies, which had monitored the ugly scenes during the 1988 European championship involving England followers in West Germany and the outbursts of violence at Birmingham and other club

matches. The riot by Leeds United supporters at Bournemouth at the end of last season was another strong factor in the decision to end the sponsorship.

This was because many people innocently caught up in the trouble on that spring afternoon were nothing to do with football. "The incidents involving England supporters at the World Cup were the last straw though. With hundreds of thousands of people involved it would have been too much to expect a totally incident-free tournament but if we had got close to that ideal we would probably have signed for at least one more year with Queens Park Rangers."

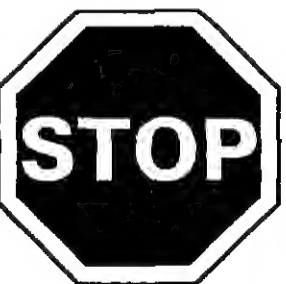
It should be pointed out that when we signed the original agreement with the late David Bullstrode we had written into it the stipulation that it would become null and void if there was serious crowd

trouble at Loftus Road or if it happened at an away game and an FA or League inquiry decided that QPR were responsible.

"After what has happened in the intervening years it now seems a bit silly to say that just because there are no problems with our club you can say football is a nice game."

With those words ringing in their ears Rangers, who earned around £600,000 from the initial three-year contract, may feel grateful yesterday to have gained a one-year short-term sponsorship for an undisclosed fee with Kumar Bros, owners of the company which manufactures their kit.

Rangers last night completed the £600,000 signing of Jan Stejsklo, the Czechoslovakian goalkeeper, from Sparta Prague. Stejsklo will not join the club until Sparta have been knocked out of the European Cup.



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